

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

Vol. LIX.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 24th February, at Saga, the wife of the Rev. H. V. S. PERKE, of a daughter.

On the 26th February, at 2, Muirhead Road, Shanghai, the wife of R. M. C. WALLACE, of a son (still born).

On the 27th February, at No. 1, Eund, Yokohama, the wife of HERBERT IRVING BELL, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 12th November, at Victoria, B.C., ALEC STEWART ANTON, of Hongkong, to LILIAN MANNERS, youngest daughter of B. J. HANFORD, of San Francisco, U.S.A.

On the 15th February, at Newchwang, by the Rev. J. S. CARSON, the Rev. WILLIAM MACHAUGHAN, M.A., U. F. Mission, Liaoyang, to ISABEL M. PHILIP, B.A., I. P. Mission, Moukden.

On the 25th February, at H.B.M.'s Consulate, Kobe, and afterwards at Trinity College Chapel, Osaka, FREDERICK PARROTT, to Dr. M. E. OSBORN CLEAVER.

On the 14th March, at St. John's Cathedral, at 4 p.m., by the Rev. F. T. JOHNSON, M.A., GERTRUDE JACKSON, to SAM TURNEY NEELY, of Paris, Kentucky, U.S.A.

DEATHS.

On the 21st January, at Croydon, G. M. LOND, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, aged 60 years.

At No. 6, Dent Lane, Shanghai, JOSE CYRILLO D'AQUINO, age 59 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The French Mail of the 5th ult. arrived per s.s. *Armand Behic* on the 7th inst., and the English Mail of the 12th ult., arrived per s.s. *Simla* on the 11th inst.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

War telegrams will be found on p. 201.

Incoming vessels, telegraphed our Singapore correspondent yesterday, report seeing four warships off Pulo Way (north-west of Sumatra), using their searchlights.

Mr. Balfour says that Russia's declaration that coal is contraband of war is of great importance, and that he is taking steps to obtain more precise information.

The Paris Municipality has voted 20,000 francs in aid of the Russian and Japanese wounded, which sum has been sent to St. Petersburg with an address hoping for the success of Russia.

On the 1st inst. the Japanese general elections passed off quietly. An extraordinary session of the Diet is convened for the 18th inst., to last ten days. It is expected that all taxes are to be raised more or less. Taxes on salt and on silk are also proposed, but this is not yet decided. The Customs tariff remains untouched.

Admiral Virenius's squadron sailed from Port Said for Cadiz on the 5th inst., and will remain about the Mediterranean, where the Baltic fleet will join it in June. The torpedo-boats, which are in a deplorable condition, remain at Port Said for repairs. The *Dmitri Donskoi* is in a most pitiable condition, and the whole squadron shows a lack of efficiency.

A St. Petersburg telegram from Vladivostok says that a bombardment occurred at 1.5 p.m. on the 6th inst. Five Japanese battleships and two cruisers were firing all their guns at a range of five miles. No damage was done, most of the 200 lyddite shells fired failing to explode. The Russian batteries made no reply, awaiting the nearer approach of the enemy, who later on retired. The Japanese ships were covered with ice.

Mr. Walton asked in the House of Commons on the 7th inst., whether, in view of the use which Russian warships are making of ports in Crete and Egypt, the Government will communicate their views to the neutrals concerned in reference to the duties of neutrals in regard to belligerents using neutral ports for intercepting vessels of neutrals. Mr. Balfour replied, that the matter, which was of great importance, was receiving the attention of the Government.

With regard to the opening of Wiju the Korean Minister for Foreign Affairs communicated on the 25th ult. to the Japanese Minister at Seoul substantially as follows:—Wiju, in Northern Py-lieung, had formerly been the site for overland trade with China, but as the consequence of certain events, the trade has for a time been discontinued. Since, however, the trade of that town has gradually been revived, the Korean Government now deem it proper to open the town for foreign commerce. Therefore, in accordance with the decision of the Council, and with the approval of H.M. the Emperor, declare this to the Foreign Representatives accredited to this Court. The limits of the city and the date of opening will be communicated later.

The *N.C. Daily News* Tokyo correspondent says that at the Japanese General Election, the so-called Neutral Party has made a considerable increase, at the expense of the *Seiyukai*. The Government has remained indifferent, but the result is decidedly favourable.

Earl Percy, replying in the House of Commons this week to Mr. Toulmin, said he approved of the action of Sir E. Satow in ordering proceedings to be taken against Mr. Cowen, the Editor of the *China Times*, which had quoted certain defamatory articles against Russia. Great excitement is reported from Tientsin over this case.

With reference to the serious riot at Chiningchou, which we reported last Saturday, it is reported in Shanghai mandarin circles, according to the *N.C. Daily News*, that not only was the sub-prefect's yamen looted by the exasperated farmers of Chiningchou, but the place was also set on fire by them and gutted. Further, after working their will with all things official within the vicinity, the mob left the city—the gates of which were at once closed by the frightened mandarins—and marching in a northerly direction proceeded to cut down the telegraph lines and tear up the poles. After doing this extra damage, the mob then dispersed vowing to make matters still worse for the mandarins if any further attempt were made to collect the exorbitant so-called war indemnity taxes from them.

Russian arrogance at Newchwang has been well advertised during the past year or two. The last straw is surely that the Russian Post Office does not now recognise the place under the name of Newchwang. For years we have been sending a newspaper to the principal British firm of the port. Recently a few of the copies have been returned through the Dead Letter Office. On one received yesterday we note two query marks in blue pencil opposite the printed word "Newchwang," which the Post Office clerk has underscored in blue pencil with three lines, and the wrapper has been stamped at the Russian Post Office with a Russian word and its French equivalent *inconnu*. Has it come to pass that we must now give the Russian name of the port—whatever that may be? It may be added that the printed newspaper wrapper bears in addition to the address in English the Chinese characters for Newchwang.

The river steamer *Chang On* was in collision on the 6th inst., on Woosung bar with the outgoing mail steamer *Ballaarat*, which has returned to Woosung with a hole in her forefoot. The *Chang On* had to be beached. No lives were lost. The *Ballaarat* was supposed to have come down with the mail this week, but, of course, now she will not be able to; the P. & O. s.s. *Coromandel* will take her place. The s.s. *Chang On* is a steel twin-screw steamer, registered under the name of R. W. Astill. She was built by Messrs. S. C. Farham & Co., Shanghai, in 1890, and is a vessel of 1,393 registered tonnage; 212 ft. in length, 30 ft. beam, and 12 ft. draught. The P. & O. s.s. *Ballaarat* is such a frequent visitor to Hongkong that it is not necessary to say much about her. She is a vessel of 4,890 gross tonnage; 5,000 h.p.; and is running the P. & O. mail between Bombay and Shanghai, connecting with the Australian-Europe P. & O. mail steamer at Colombo.

ANGLO-RUSSIAN RELATIONS.

(Daily Press, 8th March.)

Honesty and a scrupulous adherence to promises once made, even if a momentary loss be the seeming result, constitute with nations, as with individuals, the wisest and most economical policy in the long run. With Russia both have been conspicuously absent, and though in diplomacy it has not been considered good form to draw the attention of the other Government to sins against the ninth commandment, there has been a general feeling that the time was not far distant when Russia would begin to feel in her own person the ill effects of her recent policy of bad faith. To the outsider it seemed strange that any nation gifted with a particle of self-respect should have permitted itself to be made the mouthpiece for such astounding falsehoods as Russia has thought it compatible with her dignity recently to give utterance to. We may instance the continual and perfectly gratuitous lies about the evacuation of Manchuria. Three times in the most solemn manner did Russia engage herself to the world at large to leave Manchuria on a specific date; three times did she, in the face of these engagements, make no scruple to remain, as if nothing had happened that the most fastidious could take exception to. Three times, too, the other nations of the world looked on with the most supreme indifference; as if lying were so much the custom with each and all that all, like the crowd in the parable, shrank from being the first to throw a stone at her.

We have been led into this train of thought by a recent utterance of Lord LANSDOWNE in the House of Lords. Russia, in the very act of making her last silly brag that, if England persevered in her advance in Tibet, she would "make it hot" for her, was caught out by Japan in Russia's own stronghold, and made to display before the world how false had been all her boastings and how little her tall talk coincided with her internal rottenness. Never had been a more complete *exposé* of a system of deliberate deception and falsehood, and the rest of the nations were fairly laughing in their sleeves at the curious contrast between Russia, as she had seemed only the week before, and Russia as she was exhibited in her naked unloveliness at the moment. It might have been expected that under the conditions Lord LANSDOWNE, if he condescended to make any reply whatever, would have replied to the effect that if the British Commissioner found any emissary of Russia at Lhasa engaged in any secret intrigue, he had instructions to act summarily, in accordance with international laws. Instead of this we find our Foreign Office going through the farce of offering to enter into an arrangement with Russia, actually condoning the insult, and impliedly acknowledging that Russia had some business to be there at all. It is not indeed going too far to say that these foolish and uncalled for attempts to arrest the progress of Russia have never had but one effect; and that is, in convincing her that we have been actuated in all by but one motive—and that is a craven fear that after all the vapourings of Russia are something to be afraid of.

Far better, and in the long run more dignified, if we had plucked up heart of grace, even at the risk of being hard hit, and not left it for Japan to boast that of all the nations she was the first, and unassisted, to prick the overblown bubble that had carried consternation through the whole civilised world. In private life we naturally refuse to hold intercourse with a man who habitually disregards his word.

It is, of course, impossible to carry the principle into action between States, which are far too few in number to permit us to pick and choose. There is not, however, any occasion to make agreements with such a State, which, while binding on the one side, on the other are looked upon as merely momentary conveniences to be kept or broken as may at the instant seem to offer the greater advantage commercial or political. The nation that conscientiously fulfils its engagement is here at a serious disadvantage when it undertakes to enter into negotiations. In addition to her propensity, too, for repudiation Russia has another equally bad custom of interpreting all agreements according to her own point of view. A characteristic example of this has recently been enacted at Shanghai, where, in spite of an agreement for respecting the neutrality of China, Russia has been keeping in Chinese waters an armed cruiser with a full crew, and refused to give any engagement that she will not be used for the purpose of levying war till the Japanese, fired with continual protests and promises, threatened to come up the river and sink her as she lay in front of the Foreign Settlements. With the same breath, apparently unable to distinguish the incompatibility of her actions with her professions, she complained of Japan having sent to Woosung a cruiser to watch her operations. It is very evident, and should be perfectly clear to our Foreign Office, that in such a case any arrangement which binds the one party, while it practically leaves the other unfettered, only multiplies the points of friction; and so far from tending to promote friendly relations, only aggravates the present incompatibilities. In cases like the present, where the incompatibility of the views of the two nations is so great, it may very well be a moot point whether the farce of diplomatic relations had not better be abandoned between London and St. Petersburg. A means of communication which only leads to such insulting passages as have recently marked our intercourse cannot in any way have a tendency to make for peace or for a better understanding. Our way would actually be clearer, and our capacity for setting to rights difficulties easier, were all our business with St. Petersburg to be conducted through a consular agent. In such a case we should perfectly comprehend the position in each case, which under our present system seems to be an impossibility. At all events, the time has come for dropping diplomatic speech, and reverting to such plain language that Russia cannot plead any misunderstanding of its intent. To clothe our thought in periphrastic language, is in such cases unkind both to Russia and ourselves, inasmuch as it leaves the gate open to further talk and so proportionately increases the friction of a badly geared intercourse.

KING EDWARD AND THE TSAR.

(Daily Press, 7th March.)

REUTER's telegram of the 4th instant, referring to certain correspondence between King EDWARD and the Tsar, is perhaps rather likely to have too much importance attached to it. In the first place, it is not probable that the actual text of King EDWARD's letter has been made public, and any outline of its contents therefore must be tentative only; that is to say, liable to misrepresentation. In interpreting any official document, the exact wording of which is unknown, the bias of the one who is interpreting must inevitably cause a certain amount of distortion. However, supposing that REUTER's summary of the

King's letter is correct, what are we to deduce from it? His Majesty is reported to have written to the Tsar, assuring him that, "despite the agitation of the Press and the man in the street, the neutrality of Great Britain in the present war between Russia and Japan will be maintained." There is really nothing new in this. Great Britain has already declared through the mouths of responsible Ministers that she will remain strictly neutral. No sensible man has accused her of departing from this attitude. There is no call for her to do so while the other nations of the world refrain from interfering in the struggle now proceeding in North-eastern Asia. Her position has been described as one of "keeping the ring." There is no suggestion of an abandonment of this position, except in so far as the Anglo-Japanese treaty may necessitate it. Where that treaty is concerned a British Minister, speaking on behalf of the Government, has declared that Great Britain will act up to the very letter of the agreement. But while our Government's attitude is this, it cannot be denied that the sympathy of practically the whole country is absolutely with Japan. The British Press is almost solid in its support of our ally, and "the man in the street" is ready to cheer Japan and demonstrate in her favour on all possible occasions. In Russia there can be no doubt that considerable attention has been paid to this movement in the Press and the public of Great Britain. Alarm has been excited, and it seems more than probable that King EDWARD's letter to the Tsar was prompted by a desire to reassure the Russian monarch that the demonstrations of popular feeling in England must not be taken to indicate that the country was preparing to rush into hostilities with Russia. The letter may have been intended also as a rebuke to the home Press—that part of it which is most bitterly anti-Russian, chiefly, it seems, the *Daily Telegraph* and *Daily Mail* of London—and to the man in the street and, it may be added, in the music hall. To attach more weight to it would be wrong. That mistake will doubtless be made, however, and the King's letter will be twisted into an indication of a change of attitude on the part of Great Britain. There is no such change. Britain wishes to see peace, as she has wished all along. There is a revival of the reports about offers of mediation, based on what we do not know. The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* of Shanghai says that the story about Britain trying to mediate now between Russia and Japan is confirmed by well-informed Russian quarters as fully correct; but, further says our German contemporary, even taking no account of the unreasonable demands of Japan, Russia has flatly rejected any mediation at this time. Really neither country desires mediation at present, and it is not likely that Britain will take the risk of being snubbed by pressing the offer of her services. We shall continue to remain neutral, unless forced to act otherwise, and if our neutrality is more benevolent toward Japan than Russia that is the fruit of Russia's policy in the past. With regard to the question what effect the lapse of time will have on our position it is idle at present to speculate. As has been said repeatedly in these columns, we could not afford to see Russia paramount in North-East Asia, which is what the crushing of Japan by her would mean. Apart from our duties to our ally, we have our own interests in China to consider, and they are threatened with absolute ruin if Russia continues to advance and drive's all competitors away.

THE "CHINA TIMES" CASE AT
TIENTSIN.

(Daily Press, 9th March.)

The question of the freedom of the Press must ever be one of great interest in this age of newspaper-reading, and this remark applies equally to the Far East and the rest of the world. The English and other European papers have long enjoyed a full measure of liberty all over the East. In British Colonies there is all the privilege enjoyed in other parts of the British Empire. In Manila the freedom allowed in the United States is accorded. In French Indo-China the Press can be as outspoken as in France. In Japan the English papers have been permitted to comment on events with little restriction, and if there is grumbling now at greater strictness on the part of the Japanese Government with regard to the publication of war news we hardly think that the complainants do right in expecting exactly the same license in Japan during the hour of her greatest trial as in a long-established Western state. In China, of course, outside the settlements, the question does not exist; a free Press is not a feature of Chinese civilisation as yet. There remain the treaty ports in China. Hitherto full liberty has been the rule, and papers expressing all kinds of opinions have done so without fear, provided they have not outraged feelings of decency and right conduct. But a case has now arisen which promises to become famous in the history of treaty port journalism. On the 2nd inst. we published a telegram from our Tientsin correspondent, stating that in consequence of his denunciation of Russian cruelties, Mr. JOHN COWEN, a journalist well known in the Far East, as well as at home, and now Editor of the *China Times* of Peking and Tientsin, had been summoned before the military authorities at Tientsin and ordered to give security for his behaviour; and that, on his refusal and his insistence on the freedom of the Press, he was threatened with deportation. We publish to-day another telegram from the same correspondent, in which we are told that the case is monopolising interest in Tientsin. It appears that Mr. COWEN has not yet been deported; at least the fact has not yet been stated as such, and the *China Times* is protesting against the sentence. This, our contemporary urges, was given without any trial, without evidence, and without Mr. COWEN being allowed to make a defence. Mr. COWEN's stand for the freedom of the Press has evoked the sympathy of war correspondents in Manchuria, who have telegraphed their congratulations to him.

We are in a difficult position here for forming an opinion on the case, since, owing to the fact that all communication, not of a telegraphic nature, with Tientsin has been much delayed by the usual effects of winter in North China, we have not received any of the Tientsin papers of a recent date, and so cannot judge as to the permissibility or otherwise of the language employed by our colleague on the *China Times*. Mr. COWEN is a journalist of long experience, and it is difficult to imagine that he can have indulged in statements of such a kind as to warrant the extraordinary step of the joint military authorities at Tientsin. For the proceedings must indeed be called extraordinary. In the first place, that it was the military authorities who acted is remarkable, seeing that Tientsin has Municipal Councils and is not under martial law. In the second, the absence of any trial or facilities for defence is abhorrent to all sentiments of justice. We cannot understand what either General VENTRIS, commanding the British

troops in North China, or the Municipal Council concerned are doing. However, as we are without any data about the case except our own telegrams, we can only suspend judgment until we get further particulars and have an opportunity of seeing the articles complained of. At present it looks as if a most arbitrary line of conduct has been adopted by the military authorities in Tientsin.

INDIA AND THE FISCAL
QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 10th March.)

In the last number which has reached us of the Bombay journal the *Times of India*, there is reproduced a highly important despatch from the Government of India to Mr. BRODRICK, dated the 22nd October last, and published last month. It deals with the question of India and tariff reform at considerable length and in an able manner. Our Bombay contemporary, while publishing the bulk of the despatch, has also a leading article which is worth reading by all those interested in the subject of the attitude of the various parts of the British Empire on the fiscal question. In response to Lord GEORGE HAMILTON's desire to receive suggestions, from the point of view of Indian interests, as to the resolution passed by the Colonial Premiers' Conference in London in 1902 in favour of preferential tariffs, the Indian Government made an endeavour to examine the conditions of Indian trade and finance in their relation to the present tariff, and to consider how they would be affected by any scheme of preferential duties within the Empire, and whether it would be of advantage to India to participate in them. The despatch has been characterised in India as succinct, lucid, and statesmanlike, and the *Times of India* declares that it will be difficult for the most convinced advocate of Imperial reciprocity to disagree with the logic of the document. The conclusion arrived at by the Indian Government is that it is unlikely that any material advantage will accrue to India from participation in Mr. CHAMBERLAIN's scheme. We could not in the space of a single article follow the reasoning of the despatch with any minuteness, but we may try to give an outline of it.

At the present moment India enjoys the advantages of free interchange of commodities to an exceptional extent. If the matter is regarded from an economic standpoint exclusively, India has something, not very much, to offer to the Empire; but she has a great deal to risk. The financial danger to India of reprisals by foreign nations is so serious that India would not be justified in embarking on any new policy, unless assured of greater and more certain benefits than the writers of the despatch have in mind. These three sentences give the main conclusions of the Indian Government. Of India's present enjoyment of free interchange of exports there can be no doubt. As the *Times of India* points out, Indian commerce already has the advantages for which tariff reformers at home are contending. There is not in India, as in England, a condition of rapidly rising barriers against the principal exports and of declining foreign trade. The circumstances giving rise to the demand for reform at home are absent in India, where the low tariff for revenue purposes only is entirely free from any trace of protection or preference, and, especially with the excise, acts as no barrier against imports. Of Indian export trade one half pays no duty at all, and the remainder is charged with relatively moderate duties, or, as in the case

of the United Kingdom, with duties levied for revenue. What the Government have to consider, says the *Times of India*, is not how to secure a freer interchange of goods, but what would be the effect upon a freedom of interchange already existing in an unique measure of participation in a preferential scheme. The risks run by India from foreign reprisals are plain. Indian imports from the British Empire exceed exports by seven millions and a half sterling; Indian exports to foreign countries, on the other hand, exceed imports by upwards of thirty millions sterling. The despatch comments hereon:—"Inasmuch as India is a debtor country it follows therefore that we are at present dependent on our trade with foreign countries for the discharge of our net international obligations. This is an element of first importance in the consideration of the present question." Later, the despatch continues:—"By ten years of effort, sacrifice, and perseverance we have slowly built up a fair measure of public confidence in the stability of our finance. . . . But, if by a change of the fiscal policy, the balance of trade in our favour should dwindle or disappear, the whole work of ten years would be sacrificed, and a set-back to our trade, our revenues, and our credit would immensely outweigh any benefits that we might reasonably expect from a most unconditional surrender of our opponents in the war of tariffs." Against this danger, the preferential advantage which might be hoped for is light in the balance. If duties are not to be imposed on raw materials imported into the United Kingdom, India can receive no advantage in the home market for these. This would rule out all India's staple exports except wheat, the most fluctuating of all. Even wheat would have to meet the competition of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom itself on even terms. Indian and Ceylon tea already command the home market. The only articles of Indian production likely to benefit by preferential treatment are tobacco and indigo, unimportant items in the export returns.

The conclusion of the Indian Government's despatch considers the case of the United Kingdom adopting a policy of preferential tariffs or of retaliation, when if India adheres to her former principle of refusing to differentiate between different countries' import she might become the battlefield of conflicting interests in which she has no direct concern. A foreign country, secure in possession of a free and equal market for its goods in India, might be emboldened to penalise Indian trade in order to bring pressure to bear on the mother country or the colonies. This danger would be less threatening, says the despatch, if other countries were to know that India would be prepared, if need be, to retaliate in kind on their imports into India. In no circumstances, however, would India allow a policy of retaliation to develop into one of aggression. The writers of the despatch are hopeful that the mere announcement that India's hands are free to act against those penalising her exports will suffice to maintain her in enjoyment of her present measure of free exchange or even to extend it. The *Times of India* points out that the able analysis of India's present fiscal policy contained in the despatch is inferentially a powerful argument in support of Mr. BALFOUR's plea for retaliatory powers. "India owes her present advantages partly to the nature of her export trade and partly to the circumstance that she has a tariff to bargain

"with. By using this tariff she has secured "better terms for Indian coffee from protectionist France; the memorandum "broadly hints that by the freer employment of it more liberal terms might be "extorted elsewhere, and that it must be "regarded as a weapon held in reserve if "the Powers attempt to make India the "whipping-boy for a fiscally heretical England. This is precisely the position in "which Mr. BALFOUR wishes to place Great "Britain." We recommend all those who are interested in the subject to read the Indian Government's despatch.

WAR RELIEF FUNDS

(Daily Press, 11th March.)

We publish in our advertisement columns to-day a notification making an appeal to the Hongkong public on behalf of two funds started in this Colony in connection with the war now proceeding between Japan and Russia. The money subscribed to one will be devoted impartially to the mitigation of the sufferings of all sick and wounded in the war, whatever be their nationality; that subscribed to the other fund will be given for the relief of the widows and orphans of the Japanese killed during the war. Both objects are most worthy, as we need hardly insist, and Hongkong may be depended upon to make a generous answer to the appeals. We wrote eight days ago upon the subject of the proposed relief fund, pointing out what was being done in Japan and Shanghai to aid the families of those at the front in the cause of Japan. One of the Hongkong funds will be devoted to the same purpose as the money collected in Shanghai and the Japanese ports. We think that those concerned in starting the subscriptions in Hongkong have done wisely in dividing the appeal in two. Had they limited the purpose for which the money is being collected to the relief of Japanese widows and orphans, there would be a likelihood in this very cosmopolitan community that some Europeans would have held back, not seeing sufficient reason to contribute money to such a fund, when possibly their sympathies are rather with the Russians. On the other hand, it could not be expected that the local Chinese merchants, ready as they have always shown themselves to respond to calls upon their benevolence, would be eager to contribute money, part of which would go to the help of the Russians, China's enemies and oppressors. The highest form of charity, no doubt, takes no heed of race distinctions; but personal sympathies cannot, in the natural man, be entirely suppressed, and active benevolence can but be stimulated by a knowledge that it is to those whose cause we approve that our help will be given. Therefore the promoters of the two subscription lists are to be commended on the manner in which they have given an opportunity to people of various sympathies to display their charitable feelings. Hongkong residents, Europeans, Chinese, and others, will, we are confident, take the opportunity of subscribe to one or other of the funds or even to both.

There has been issued from the Statistical Department of the Customs at Shanghai a copy of the *Customs Gazette* for the fourth quarter of last year. The comparative statement of the total amount of dues and duties collected during the quarter in 1903 and 1902 is as under, in Haikwan taels:—

	1903.	1902.
Chinese ports	7,899,888	8,177,894
Kowloon and Lappa	186,609	157,114
Lungchow, Mengtze, Szao-mao, and Tengyueh	66,400	57,614
Total	8,152,897	8,392,652

HONGKONG JOTTING

(Daily Press, 7th March.)

The change in the weather yesterday, when the floodgates of heaven were opened after being sealed for fully three months, was not unwelcome. Drains in various parts of the town have loudly proclaimed their want of flushing for weeks past, and the residents will welcome the approach of the time when the Water Authority will no longer find it necessary to keep the town on shot commons. When will Hongkong be provided with sufficient water-storage? I have heard it whispered that His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government is paying particular attention to this important matter, and that as a consequence the work will be greatly accelerated this year. So mote it be!

There is considerable talk now of a new Peak tramway being built. A Bill has already been drawn up for presentation to the Legislative Council. I see that the Hongkong correspondent of the *North-China Daily News* sketches the course of the line as starting from Battery Pathway, near to its junction with Queen's Road, running up near and past the Public Gardens, thence up Glenealy Ravine, to Queen's Gardens, and on. There would be stations for Caine Road, Robinson Road, Conduit Road and Queen's Gardens, giving quick access to all the different levels of Victoria, and rendering residents more or less independent of chair-coolies. The same writer understands that efforts will be made to preserve one uniform grade throughout, and that the car accommodation will be greater than on the present line. I have heard it mentioned here that the line will run through the Public Gardens, which I hope is not true, for it would be a pity to spoil our pretty Gardens. But a new tramway, tapping different districts, and beginning in Queen's Road, would be a great gain to the Colony.

Speaking of tramways, what has become of the Magazine Gap scheme? It is long since I have seen anything about it. Such a line must come in time, I should think.

A special Providence is said to watch, and it think not without some warrant, over children and drunkards, both of whom not infrequently have wonderful escapes from danger. I remember hearing of a man who while intoxicated managed to fall over a precipice some 70 feet in height into a chalk pit in Kent, and was found next morning, if not perfectly free from contusions, at least with sound, unbroken bones. The escape of little Miss Kathleen Craddock on the Harlech Road at the Peak a few days ago is a striking instance of the way children often evade fatal consequences from a fall. She slipped through the iron railing, turned a somersault, and landed on a ledge, and although this did not entirely stay her descent, for she continued rolling down some thirty feet on the rocks, it broke her fall and let her off with bruises instead of broken limbs or concussion of the brain. The little lady has been shown off her fair locks, but she is, I am glad to say, doing well, and will soon make a good recovery. There are plenty of walks at the Peak where accidents could happen, but thanks to the present head of the Public Works Department, most of the worst places have been protected by railings, and very few accidents of the kind do occur.

The ladies of the community who unsuccessfully petitioned the Government recently with a view to secure the registration of domestic servants will be interested to observe that in a somewhat indirect way their appeal has the support of the Acting Captain Superintendent of Police in his annual report to the Government. After commenting on the fact that larcenies by servants were numerous last year, Captain Lyons says: "It would greatly assist the Police in such cases if it were customary for persons when engaging servants to obtain their photographs and their names, parents' names and addresses in Chinese characters." Certainly it would, but the Police might wait until the Greek Kalends for such a custom to grow up in Hongkong. The only satisfactory way of putting the Police into possession of this information is for the

Government to yield to the prayer of the ladies or the Colony and require all Chinese servants to register, as is done in Indo-China. It is not generally known that a photograph album of servants who have been convicted is now kept by the Police. The Captain-Superintendent in his report announces that this album may be inspected by anyone. I heard a few days ago of a case in which a lady engaged a brand new lot of servants, and a day after their installation missed one hundred dollars! Ladies who are unable to get satisfactory references with new servants might do well to inspect the Police album.

Now that the rains have come at last it may seem idle to refer again to the waste of water which one sees in so many directions. In below the window of my bedroom there is a spigott which ran incessantly every night for the whole length of a week. The sound of the splashing water was annoying enough in all conscience, but there was much more annoyance in the fact that good water was being wantonly wasted while everybody in the Colony was more or less suffering from a dearth of supply. I had the courage to report the matter to an official of the P. W. D., and he told me, rightly or wrongly, that he had no power to go into a householder's yard to check water-waste. If that is so it is high time such power was given.

Mr. H. D. Wolfe should feel a proud man for the encomiums poured upon him for the marked success he and his hard-working committee achieved in their "send off" ball on Friday night, which was mentioned in the *Press* on Saturday. The floor which Mr. J. Vanstone took under his care certainly proved its reputation of being the best in the Colony. The absence of a band, which so many other engagements just now prevented them from securing, was never missed on account of the excellent playing of the dance-music by Col. Sergt. Fielding, Sherwood Foresters, at the piano, and Sergt. Jenkins, R.E., on the violin. It was an ideal night for a ball, and everyone regretted that this one was bringing a delightful series to a close. Perhaps the energetic and indefatigable Mr. Wolfe will turn his attention in some other direction to find us poor exiles some form of amusement, during the unpleasant season before us. He will be quite assured of the gratitude of those exiles!

BANYAN.

JAPAN DURING THE WAR.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

Tokyo, 24th February.

The daily question is "What news? what news?" The same reply is always given: "There is no news, this is the period of waiting." Strange as it may seem, battles require even more preparation than the acts of a play in a theatre, and the public must wait till all is ready. All clamour is useless; the managers keep the curtain down until they are satisfied that all is ready. We try to coax; if we have to wait, let us go and do our waiting in the place where the preparations are going on, let us amuse ourselves and pass the time watching; But the reply, courteously inflexible, is—what would a correspondent do there? Why, he would correspond, of course; and that is just the thing that cannot be.

The Japanese authorities are perfectly right. Secrecy regarding their plan of campaign is an essential to the success of their life-and-death struggle with the huge Power, the bally of Europe, and the insatiable devourer of Asia. From Port Arthur to Vladivostok is a long, exposed line of communications, which Japan can threaten at a hundred points, and keep the Russians in a fever of apprehension, running hither and thither to meet incessant alarms, while a tremendous, overwhelming combined move may be in preparation at some little-suspected spot. And if Russia occupied Korea, so much the longer line would she expose to swift descents of Japanese forces from the sea which they command completely. The trump card which Japan holds, by her sea power, is the ability to attack suddenly at any unknown point of a long line. Suddenness depends on secrecy. And

secrecy and Pressmen are incompatible. One or the other must be sacrificed, and the Japanese are wisely determined that their national existence shall not be imperilled for the sake of British newspaper-readers or any other. The mere fact of letting one correspondent go forward would mean having to let all go; and if London papers, even without a line of information about troops, simply said, "Our special correspondent was last heard of at Biogbang" this would be immediately noted by eager Russians, who could infer that the correspondents would not be there if there was nothing to see. Moreover, if a Pressman were allowed on the scene, some one of them would surely be unable to resist the temptation to smuggle his "news" away despite all precautions and regardless of consequences; for there are such deeds done sometimes. Already two or three men have been plainly warned to leave the Far East entirely, because they were found dangerous in this way. A newspaper triumph might conceivably wreck an empire.

So, one begins to be afraid of saying even what is allowed to be seen. Day by day I see trainloads of soldiers leaving Tokyo in full campaign order, with all impedimenta for active service; for my own information I can count, pretty fairly, how many men fill a compartment of the train, how many there are per train, how many trains, and so on; and I would greatly like to tell you the figure which is in my mind, representing the troops that have passed down Japan's main trunk railway from the headquarters to the shipping place. I would like to tell you, but not to tell the Russians.

Some idea of the gigantic struggle that is to come may be gathered from the indications in the Tsar's published statements. He is reported to have declared that the Russian people must not look for early success, as it was intended to deal a tremendous blow with all the weight of the empire's forces, which would take months to prepare; meantime the Russian defence centres at Harbin, far in the interior. If the Tsar means what he is quoted as saying, he means to take up a position where Japan cannot attack so easily as from the sea, yet where he would constantly menace the Japanese if they confined their attention to the seaboard. This, then, would be a war with armies running into the hundreds of thousands, not mere tens of thousands as when Japan beat another supposed "Colossus," ten years ago. The war may range over thousands of miles of the wildest country, it may reach Titanic dimensions, like those of Bajazet and Timur the Tartar, Genghis, and Kublai Khan. At any rate, I think there is no harm in saying that Japan appears to be ready for some such enormous effort.

There were in ordinary times 34 trains per day carrying passengers from Tokyo to Yokohama and further west. Now there are ten; the difference represents not necessarily a precise number of troop-trains, but so much ordinary traffic stopped to allow for military requirements. And the troop-trains are so frequent that the country people, at any rate the village children and many adults, seem to pass all their time now alongside the railway, cheering the soldiers as they are borne past from time to time. All along the line, about every half-mile, there are gay decorations on a somewhat elaborate scale, for simple peasantry; festoons of flags and lanterns, lighted up at night with occasional fireworks, devices in evergreens, model warships, and so on. And at night numerous bonfires are kindled, and the country-folk wait round these until late into the wintry nights, shouting loyally as the trains go by. At the stations, and in the streets of big towns, the enthusiasm takes more imposing form; whole streets arched, festooned, gaily decked and illuminated after dark, while cheering crowds can sometimes be heard at midnight, a mile or two across the town.

All this brave show is touching, when one knows that such demonstrations in Japan are purely dutiful and by instruction, never spontaneous. These people are willing, eager, to show their devotion, but they never do such things of themselves. Paternalism goes so far, with these dutiful people, that they never say "Hurrah" until the policeman, or the village headman, or some person in authority, signifies that this is the correct moment. They hang out banners joyfully,

when told by the authorities. In such matters they invariably wait to be told. There is little or no spontaneity, as we understand it. Yet the enthusiasm is real and thorough, even though so docile and disciplined. A Japanese will be proud and happy to die for his Emperor, yet would never dare to cheer him when passing in the street, for such a thing has never yet been sanctioned.

At Shinbashi station I saw two women, perhaps mother and daughter, crying, and a small boy with them. He also cried, till he noticed a foreigner, and then he just stared gravely. He came forward a step or two, so I asked "What makes you cry, little man?" He managed to understand my Japanese, and said, "Father gone to war. Mother and sister, all crying." "Father cry too?" "Not a bit—disagreeable old beast!"

Thi more I see of the country and people now, the more I see history simply repeating itself. The world has generally imagined that the war of ten years ago between Japan and China was a farce, that the Chinese did not fight, and that the Japanese had a walk-over, proving nothing as to their capabilities. The world at large does not think very carefully. My view of that war, which I went through from beginning to end, was that the Chinese made by no means a poor fight; they did even better than I think some nations of Europe would do, and the Japanese won, not by a walk-over, but by sheer hard fighting and skilful tactics. They tackled an opponent just ten times their size, an opponent that had been long dreaded by the rest of the world. Now, Russia is no bigger than China. It fills more space on the map, but that is a disadvantage. I cannot help thinking it is the same old story of the torpedo and the whale; bulk counts for nothing against fire and force. The Chinese were defeated because of defects which the Russians also possess in very marked degree: officers steeped in speculation and corruption, more given to pursuits of pleasure and dissipation than to earnest work; men mere clods, underpaid, brutalised, brave enough, but too dull-witted to be of use. I have not seen all the regiments of Russia, but I marched to Peking in 1900 with something like 20,000 Russians, of the same sort that will face the Japanese, and I could not help thinking they were like so many thousand sheep or bullocks. Armies of millions are valueless if made of material inferior to their opponents. From what I have seen of Russians and Japanese and Chinese in action, I think the points of essential difference between the war of 1904 and that of 1894 will prove surprisingly small.

One difference is in the number of foreign Pressmen and military attachés. In those days there were very few, only three or four of each; now there are shoals of them, dozens and scores of them. Japan treats them only too well; in this tedious "wait between the acts," the whole swarm passes its time dining and wining, attending lavish banquets offered by enthusiastic Japanese on one pretext or another, with geisha-dances, acrobats and jugglers, and all kinds of entertainment. Some of the foreign guests dine not wisely but too well at these festive gatherings, and make extraordinary exhibitions of themselves before their astonished Oriental hosts. "C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas la guerre!" In every village and mountain glen, there are daily enacted thrilling and touching scenes, worthy the cleverest pen or brush. But in Tokyo the daily complaint is "No news; we must wait."

The Editor of the *China Times* at Tientsin whose deportation is impending for publishing certain articles on alleged Russian cruelties, is the brother of Mr T. Cowen, formerly of Hongkong, with whom his identity has been confused in telegrams on the subject appearing in some of our contemporaries. Mr. John Cowen, until about three years ago, held a position on the *London Times*, and came out to China during the Boxer troubles. He decided to remain and to start the paper which has recently given such dire offence to the Russian community at Tientsin and Peking. The paper is now owned by a limited liability company, Mr. Cowen being Editor and general manager. Mr. T. Cowen is with the Japanese army as the correspondent of the *London Daily Chronicle*.

THE WAR.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.]

London, 7th Mar., 10.55 a.m.

An official despatch to S. Petersburg states that seven Japanese war vessels bombarded Vladivostok for the space of one hour on Sunday at long range. No damage was done.

TIENTSIN, 8th Mar., 10.50 a.m.

The case of the deportation of Mr. John Cowen, Editor of the *China Times*, monopolises interest in this port. The *China Times* states that the sentence was passed without Mr. Cowen being given a trial, with no evidence adduced, and no defence allowed.

The war correspondents in Manchuria have telegraphed their congratulations to Mr. Cowen for the stand he has made, on behalf of the freedom of the Press.

London, 8th Mar., 10.55 a.m.

The Japanese squadron resumed its re-shelling of Vladivostok on Monday. It is reported that they drew off without suffering any damage. The effect of the bombardment on the Russian port is not known.

Kobe, 10th Mar., 4.50 p.m.

Admiral Kamimura reports that on the morning of the 6th inst. (Sunday) the Japanese fleet bombarded Vladivostok, firing being continued for a period of forty minutes. The Russian forts made no response.

It is also reported that another Japanese squadron bombarded Talienwan on Tuesday night. Operations lasted until next morning.

Port Arthur has also undergone a similar experience, but the time is not stated.

Kobe, 10th Mar., 8.50 p.m.

Another brush between the scouts of the Russian and Japanese forces has occurred at Pak-chyon, north of Pingyang. The Japanese, who fought against odds, lost one man killed. The Russians ultimately retired northwards.

CONTRABAND OF WAR.

The Acting Colonial Secretary notified us on the 9th inst. that the following telegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies had been received:—

London, 8th March.

"Russian declaration as to contraband states as follows:—*En général tous les objets destinés à la guerre, sur mer ou sur la terre, de même que le riz, les vivres, et les chevaux, bêtes de sommes, et autres pouvant servir dans un but de guerre et si elles sont transportées pour le compte ou à destination de l'ennemi.*

"Japan regards provisions as contraband of war when destined for the enemy's army or navy, or in cases where, being goods arrived at enemy's territory, there is reason to believe they are intended for use of his army or navy."

THE JOINT PROTEST AT CHEMULPO.

Le Courrier Saigonnais gives the text of the joint protest signed at Chemulpo on the 8th ult. by Captains Lewis Bayly, of H.M.S. *Talbot*, Borea, of the Italian cruiser *Elba*, and Sennés, of the French cruiser *Paschal*, against the action of the Japanese Admiral Uriu at Chemulpo on that day. Translated, it reads as follows:—

"We the undersigned, in command of the three neutral warships, British, French, and Italian, in acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 8th February, with respect to your intention of attacking the Russian warships now in this harbour at 4 o'clock in the afternoon of this day, the 8th February, have the honour to call your attention to the following declaration:—

"We consider that, according to the acknowledged rules of International Law, the harbour of Chemulpo being a neutral harbour, no country has the right to attack the ships of another country lying in this harbour; and the Power which contravenes this law is entirely responsible for all injury to life or property of persons in such a harbour."

"We therefore protest energetically against such a violation of neutrality; and we should be glad to hear your decision in the matter."

THE BOMBARDMENT OF VLADIVOSTOCK.

The Japanese Consul has kindly supplied us with a translation of the following telegram received by him on the 10th inst.:-

"Tokyo, 10th March, 2.45 p.m.

"In the official report of Vice-Admiral Kamimura, the commander of the detached squadron, it is stated that the Japanese squadron made a close approach to the N.E. forts of Vladivostock on the morning of the 6th inst., making a demonstrative bombardment, which commenced at 2 p.m. and lasted 40 minutes. The Japanese observed Russian soldiers at the forts, but the guns made no reply. The Japanese squadron retired.

"On the morning of the 7th inst. the Japanese fleet made a search in America Bay and Stray Rock Bay, but found nothing in particular. At noon they went to the eastern side of Vladivostock, but could find none of the enemy's ships. They also searched Possiet Bay, but found nothing."

It will be seen that this bears out part of our Kobe telegram.

H.M.S. "TALBOT" FROM CHEMULPO.

On Tuesday morning H.M.S. *Talbot* arrived from Chemulpo, which she left on the 4th inst. As she was present during the fighting between the Japanese fleet and the *Varyag* and *Koreetz*, doubtless all on board have some very interesting tales to tell. Unfortunately, however, the naval authorities think it better that too much should not be said on this subject at present and do not encourage the giving of details to the Press. For this we cannot of course quarrel with them, for they have no doubt their reasons. It can do no harm, however, if we give the bare facts of the Chemulpo affair in order to supplement the previous accounts which have reached us by way of Shanghai.

On the 8th inst. the Japanese fleet arrived off Chemulpo at 4 p.m.; the two Russian warships had been in 14 days or so then. The Russians were ordered to leave by a certain time; they left on the 9th at noon, going full speed to run the gauntlet. Eight Japanese cruisers in all were outside, and they promptly opened fire from a range of about 2,000 yards (who fired the first shot seems still unsettled.) The Russians sank their own ships about half a mile from the entrance to Chemulpo Harbour, the two crews taking refuge in their own boats. The *Talbot* picked up some 300 of the refugees, the French cruiser *Pascal* some 180, and the Italian cruiser *Elba* about 200. The Japanese went into Chemulpo, not doing any more that night. The Japanese examined the wrecks next day, and departed. Japanese transports commenced to arrive with troops, which were loaded, while two or three torpedo-boats or destroyers kept guard. They probably, also, kept a few warships outside, but these were not seen after the fleet left. The Japanese are reported to have looked very fit and to be confident of success.

THE "MANDJOUR" DIFFICULTY.

The *Shanghai Mercury* of the 4th inst. is officially informed that the Russian war-vessel *Mandjour* has been ordered to dismantle as quickly as possible.

The *Universal Gazette* states that Yuan Taotai notified the Japanese Consul-General at Shanghai that he had received instructions from the Waiwupu to order the *Mandjour* to be dismantled and her armaments to be kept by the Chinese Government until the Russo-Japanese war is over. Further, her officers should be reduced by half. On the same day the Taotai notified the Russian Consul-General here that nothing could be done for the time being until definite information had been received from the Japanese Consul-General. As yet no reply has come from the Russian Consul, and it is thought that the question of the *Mandjour* can [?] cannot be settled in the near future.

THE RUSSIAN PRISONERS.

The Messageries Maritimes s.s. *Australien* left Hongkong on the 8th inst. with the refugees picked up by the Italian cruiser *Elba* at Chemulpo. These will be taken to Saigon and thence sent on to Russia. Japan has consented to their being released on parole, as we have already stated.

NORTHERN TELEGRAMS.

The following are the principal telegrams in the Shanghai papers:-

London, 21st February.—The Fund organised by Viscountess Hayashi, wife of the Japanese Minister in London, for the relief of Japanese sufferers from the war, has already reached the sum of two thousand four hundred pounds.—*Mainichi*.

Berlin, 29th February.—The Japanese Korean treaty has been received here without opposition.—*O Lloyd*.

Chefoo, 29th February.—The German papers report that the bodies of seven Japanese had been washed ashore here is entirely unfounded.—*China Gazette*.

Tokyo, 2nd March.—An extraordinary Cabinet Council was held this afternoon at which the war taxes were discussed. Including the land, income tobacco, and silk taxes, a sum of between sixty and seventy million yen is expected to be raised. The Seoul-Wiju railway will be undertaken out of the extraordinary military funds.—*V.C.D.N.*

Chefoo, 2nd March.—A Japanese man-of-war with three funnels is ashore in Prince Jerome Gulf, Corea. The Japanese are forwarding transports with troops and war materials from Chemulpo to Pingyang Inlet.—*O Lloyd*.

Tokyo, 2nd March.—Two kilometres of the Harbin-Nikolsk railway, in the vicinity of Ninguta, have been destroyed, and the telegraphs to Vladivostock are interrupted. Five locomotives and cars fell into Lake Baikal on the 28th ult. Four officers and twenty-one men were killed outright.—*V.C.D.N.*

Tokyo, March 2nd.—The fact that it now takes the Russian warships a couple of hours to navigate the channel leading to the harbour Port Arthur, and that the Russian authorities have been unable so far to refloat the five sunken Japanese transports, is accepted as strong proof that Admiral Togo's attempt to block the entrance was not altogether unsuccessful.—*China Gazette*.

Peking, 3rd March.—Several hundred Chinese coolies at Wushan near Hengtien have gone on strike against the Russians. A secret organisation composed of Polish Jews, refugees from Harbin, and fugitive convicts from Siberia is projecting a movement against the Russians. Its leader is energetically collecting twenty-five thousand foreign desperadoes and Chinese miners and bandits for this purpose.—*V.C.D.N.*

TROUBLE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

HONGKONG AND A THREATENED UPRISING.

There seems to be little doubt that the Insular Government expects trouble in the Philippines. A transport with reinforcements arrived at Manila from the United States a few days ago, coming out via Suez. Within the past month or so, within our knowledge, there have been no less than three persons, whom we believe to be United States' detectives, in Hongkong. Apparently they have come over here to keep a watch on Filipino residents, and send reports to the Manila authorities. If Japan is successful in her northern campaign, we are informed that it is certain that the natives of the United States' possession farther south will be more eager than ever for independence. However the war ends, though, there is not much doubt that dissatisfaction must prevail as long as the "Stars and Stripes" float over the islands. Filipinos in Hongkong do not favour the present action of their fellow countrymen now in insurrection in North Luzon, thinking that it would be a better policy to remain quiet at home, and make a political fight in America. They are confident that when the non-imperialistic party get into power the States may do the right thing by them. Blood is thicker than water, and many Filipinos say they would prefer Asiatic rule to American rule. Of course, though, what they desire most of all is independence. The Japanese, it may be remarked, have an affectionate regard for Filipinos, and Filipinos desire nothing more than to follow in Japan's footsteps. If they had equal chances they are confident that they would do as well as that plucky little nation.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 10th inst. in the Board Room. Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (President) presided, and there were also present Hon. W. Chatham (Vice-President), Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Colonel W. E. Webb, J.A.M.C.; Mr. A. Rumjahn; Dr. B. Barnett, Assistant Medical Officer of Health; Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary) and Mr. T. A. Himmer (Assistant Secretary).

DRAINAGE SYSTEM DEFECTS.

Mr. A. RUMJAHN pursuant to notice moved "That steps be taken by the Board to remedy the defects in the drainage system introduced by the Sanitary Surveyor into the block of buildings known as Nos. 46, 48, 51, 52, 54, 56, 58, and 60 Chin Road; and generally to remedy similar defects existing in any other property where the filth of one building is conveyed into the yard of another through open surface channels." It was imperative, he said, that the drainage of a building should be arranged as not to constitute a menace to health and comfort of its occupiers, and also that the bye-laws governing the disposal of sewage waters should be strictly complied with. In the block of houses to which he referred in his motion the system of drainage had been ill-designed inasmuch as filth from one house was carried into the yard of the second, the third received the filth of the first two, and so on. It was unnecessary to say that this was insanitary. The Acting M.O.H. said that under certain conditions it might be dangerous to health. The Sanitary Surveyor in his report stated there were two traps in each yard and a channel running down the centre. These traps were only 8 inches square, and when foul water was thrown in to the yards it ran into this channel. Reference to the Surveyor's plan would show that there was only one trap provided in each yard. This was in contravention of section 45 of the Bye-laws of Ord. 13 of 1901. But the most important disregard of the Bye-laws was the passage of filthy water down the surface channel in contravention of Section 35 of the existing Ordinances. It was not the case that the channel was misused by the tenants. The slope of the yards was towards the channel in the centre. The traps were placed, one near the kitchen, and the other on the side of the main building. The Surveyor said this channel was intended to carry away the rain-water from the roof. This was not so; for this was collected by pipes under the eaves and emptied into one of the traps. As to the remedy, he would propose that the two traps be removed and a new one placed in the centre of the yard and that the aperture leading the channel from one yard to another be blocked.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK seconded.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said the real cause of the trouble was the manner in which the houses and kitchens were designed. In this case they could not drain into the back-chase save at a very great expense. To provide for the outlet of the back premises a pipe would have to pass below each house in turn, or else the drainage must be carried from yard to yard as described. To the former course there were strong sanitary objections. The only method therefore was the latter alternative; the question was just to what extent it ought to be done. In this case the drainage arrangements here were submitted by the owner and not by the Sanitary Surveyor, who had no alternative but to approve of this method proposed by the owner provided it did not contravene any of their bye-laws; and he did not think it did.

On a show of hands the motion was lost by the casting vote of the President, the voting being:—For the motion, Messrs. Rumjahn, Lau Chu Pak, and Fung Wa Chun (3); against—the President, the Vice-President, and Colonel Webb (3).

SINKING OF A WELL.

Messrs. Palmer and Turner sent in application for permission to sink a well on Marine Lot No. 185 adjoining the new Taiping Theatre, for the purpose of filling the tanks with water to be used in case of fire.

Dr. Pearse minuted that whatever purpose a well was originally intended to serve, it might in time of drought be used for obtaining drinking water from, and he therefore recommended as a precaution that the well be sunk in the middle of the vacant piece of ground to the east of the steps leading to the theatre door instead of at the side close to the adjoining building; the well should be cement rendered to within 3 or 4 feet from the bottom the brickwork carried up to form a 1 to 2 feet parapet, and the surface round the well canalised and cemented.

Mr. Hewett minuted that he did not think the sinking of wells should be encouraged; the water was sure to be used for drinking purposes.

On the motion of the VICE-PRESIDENT, seconded by Mr. LAU CHU PAK, the application was granted subject to the conditions mentioned by the M.O.H.

PAVING OF LAUNDRIES.

Dr. Barnett, in reference to a report sent in said he wished to know what material the Board approved under No. 2 of the bye-laws governing laundries. Did they approve of Canton tiles? Tiles had been accepted in the past, but were not impervious. At least 50 per cent. of the license premises were paved with Canton tiles.

The Director of Public Works minuted: "A layer of cement rendering three-quarters of an inch thick or the paving bricks or glazed tiles made by the Green Island Cement Co. would be preferable to Canton tiles."

Mr. E. A. Hewett: "The use of Canton tiles for flooring should be gradually done away with."

The PRESIDENT moved the approval of the D.P.W.'s minute, the same to be applicable to new premises.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

WATER ANALYSIS.

The report of Mr. A. C. Franklin, Acting Government Analyst, for the month of February showed that the water was of excellent quality.

RATS.

It was reported that during the fortnight ended 7th inst. 700 rats were killed; of these 18 were infected with plague.

This was all the important business.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

CENTENARY MEETING.

Last Monday evening the centenary meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society was held in the City Hall. There was a good attendance. H. E. F. H. May, C.M.G., presided, and among others present were Mr. R. A. B. Ponsonby, Private Secretary to His Excellency; Right Rev. Bishop J. C. Hoare, Rev. F. T. Johnson, Rev. J. H. France, Rev. F. Icely, Rev. T. W. Pearce, Rev. T. Wright, Rev. W. J. Southam, Rev. E. W. Hipwell, Rev. F. Blanchett, Rev. C. H. Hickling, Rev. W. Bridie, Rev. R. F. Gottschalk, Rev. R. Wells, and Professor Sharp. His Excellency in his presidential address referred to the good work done by the Society and reminded the audience that there was a deficit of something like a quarter of a million pounds to be met. Its work, he said, was to put the Bible into the hands of as many of the inhabitants of the world as possible and to let it speak for itself; surely no man could object to that? Rev. T. W. Pearce afterwards delivered an address reviewing the history of the Bible Society and pointing out its needs and aims. He remarked that the love of the Bible was one of the best guarantees for the solidarity of the Empire, and was thankful to God that the history of the Bible Society was contemporaneous with the history of our colonial expansion. Bishop Hoare also addressed the meeting.

In delivering judgment in this case, quashing the conviction of the lower court, as already reported in these columns, the Chief Justice remarked that it was clear that Mr. A. F. G. Tilleke intended to return the jewelry, while as for the Burmese clerk, Mong On, there was no evidence against him of criminal intention.

NOTES FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

The last few days of damp, mild weather have put new life into vegetation, and leaves and flowers have appeared as if by magic. The tints of the young leaves of many of the trees and shrubs are as variable and as highly coloured as the autumn tints of the trees in the old country. Many a time have we mistaken the young leaves of a *Ternstroemia* for the brightly coloured flowers of *Rhododendron indicum*, for it is only by getting to close quarters that the difference can be seen. This is only one example; anyone who takes an interest in wandering over the hills of the island and the New Territory will be able to supply many others.

Rhododendron Farrare, which delights in growing in such exposed positions as Victoria Peak and Mt. Parker, is now in flower. The colour of the flowers is pale purple, and, on account of this, the plants can be easily detected at this time of the year.

Rhododendron indicum will be in flower a little later, although a few cultivated specimens are already to be seen.

A very pretty, but a very common, shrub may also be found in flower on the hillsides. This is *Raphiolepis indica*, a shrub with ivory-white flowers borne in small panicles at the ends of the branches. There are several specimens now at their best in various parts of the gardens. We heard it called locally "Indian may" from its resemblance, somewhat, to the common hawthorn.

HONGKONG POLICE REPORT.

The report of Capt. F. W. Lyons, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police, for the year 1903 is published in the *Gazette*. We make the following extracts:—

The total of all cases reported was 11,251, as against 10,421 in 1902, being an increase of 830, 7.96 per cent. In the division of these cases into serious and minor offences, there appears an increase, as compared with 1902, of 83 cases, or 21.58 per cent. in the former, and a decrease of 33 cases, or 51 per cent. in the latter. The increase was chiefly in respect of larceny. Larcenies by servants were numerous. In some of the more serious cases the police were successful in tracing the thieves and recovering most of the property stolen. The value of the property reported stolen during the year was \$228,061.37, and the value of the property recovered by the police and restored to owners was \$26,941.16. In some of the more serious cases the police were successful in tracing the thieves and recovering most of the property stolen; it would greatly assist the police in such cases if it were customary for persons when engaging servants to obtain their photographs and their names, parents' names, and addresses in Chinese characters.—60 gambling warrants were executed.—One thousand six hundred and twenty-three search warrants for prepared opium were executed by the police and excise officers of the Opium Farmer. In 611 cases opium was found, and 706 persons were arrested.

Conduct.—The number of reports against Europeans was 107, as against 87 in 1902; of these, 25 were for drunkenness, as against 23 in the previous year; 5 for asleep on duty as against 2; 7 for disorderly conduct and fighting; and 1 for sitting down on duty, as against 3 and 2 respectively; and 14 for neglect of duty as against 4 last year. The conduct of the contingent was on the whole good, only 4 men had more than 3 reports against them, and 72 men had none. There were 463 reports against men of the Indian contingent, as compared with 354 for last year. For drunkenness there were 42, against 24 in 1902; 21 for disorderly conduct, against 22; 48 for neglect of duty, against 33; 79 for absence from duty, against 44; 105 for gossiping and idling on duty, against 72; and 22 for asleep on duty, against 23 in the previous year. The conduct of the contingent was satisfactory, as a large number of the reports were for trivial offences, and 188 men had no reports against them. The Chinese contingent is responsible for 835 reports, against 960 in 1902 (which included Water police). There were no reports for drunkenness; 113

for asleep on duty, as against 111; 18 for disorderly conduct, as against 35; and 334 for absence from station, duty and parades, against 372 in 1902. The conduct of the contingent may be considered fair, as 116 men had no reports against them, 59 men had only 1 each, and many of the offences were trivial.

Rewards.—One inspector was awarded a good conduct medal for good work done during the epidemic of plague. One inspector, two Indian sergeants, two Chinese sergeants, and one Chinese constable were granted good conduct medals for long and faithful service, and two Chinese constables for good work done in the New Territory. One Chinese sergeant and two constables were granted rewards for energy and zeal in making arrests of robbers and thieves, and one Chinese constable for prompt action in the arson case of No. 205 Queen's Road Central.

THE NEW TERRITORY.

Mr. E. R. Hallifax, Acting Deputy Superintendent, reported that during the year there were 14 Europeans, 96 Indians, and 43 Chinese with 10 boatmen stationed in the New Territory on land, up to September; after September the number of Indians was reduced to 8, while another crew of five boatmen was added. The increase in the gang robberies from 11 in 1902 to 18 in 1903 was not due to general relapse, but was the work especially of two particular gangs: most of the members of both have been arrested and convicted. The last two months of the year showed an immediate improvement in consequence.

EDUCATION.

Mr. A. W. Grant, assistant-in-charge of the Police School, reported that, during the year, the school was open on 98 days, with a total attendance of 4,236, giving a daily average attendance of 43.2. As in former years, two examinations for European police constables were held. At one 10 men presented themselves and 8 passed, and at the other 7 men presented themselves and 4 passed. The total number of men on the Roll during 1903 was 377, made up as follows:—European Police Constables, 26; Indian Police Constables, 150; Gaol Staff, 61; Chinese Police Constables, 137; Garden Boys, 3.

THE OPENING OF KONGMOON.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Kongmoon, 7th March.

At 10 o'clock this morning the Acting Commissioner of Customs personally hoisted the Chinese ensign on the Customs flagstaff, a guard of honour from the revenue, steamer *Fei-hoo* presenting arms; the red ensign and the Chinese dragon flag fluttered from two houseboats, the temporary head-quarters of H.B.M. Consul and the Commissioner of Customs respectively, while three guns boomed forth from the revenue steamer. The ceremony over, the genial Commissioner of Customs invited all the foreigners present to his houseboat, where a bumper was drunk to the health of the new treaty port.

Thus was the Port of Kongmoon formally opened to trade.

H.M.S. *Moorhen* and the French gunboat *Argus* are in port.

The weather is cold and dull with every prospect of heavy rain.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 7th March.

OPENING OF KONGMOON.

In accordance with the terms of the "Mackay" treaty, the port of Kongmoon is to-day formally opened. Mr. Fox, Acting Consul at Wuchow, proceeded there yesterday on H.M.S. *Moorhen*, while Mr. Maze (late Deputy Commissioner of Customs at Canton) has been in the port for some days making arrangements for the opening of Customs work. He will remain as Acting Commissioner.

The opening of Kongmoon will give a stimulus to the West River and Delta trade, which has indeed of late been promising to increase rapidly. The Steamboat Company has

three vessels running to Wuchow, one of which, the *Tak Hing*, will, I understand, run to Kong-moon; while two French boats will shortly be on the West River run.

THE KWANGSI TROUBLES.

From Kwangsi the news comes that the rebellion is now more widespread than ever. The troops can make little headway, and in so mountainous a region this is hardly a matter for surprise, considering the poor quality of the troops. Large numbers of soldiers still continue to go up the river. On Friday last over 1,000 left Samshui in a flotilla towed by fourteen launches. These men had been brought down from the North by two C.M.S.N. Co. steamers, but others come overland from Hunan, and down the North River to Samshui. This overland route has been in use almost as much as the other, so that Kwangsi should according to all rules have been subdued long since.

LOCAL CONDITIONS.

In Canton there is at present nothing to chronicle. The excitement of New Year has subsided, and people have returned to their occupations. The busy season has now set in, and, given a good harvest, this should prove a moderately prosperous year.

[FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 5th March.

VICEROY SHUM.

The Imperial Chinese Government having given Viceroy Shum a further period of five months for the entire suppression of the Kwangsi rebellion, His Excellency is doing all he can to raise money to buy ammunition, charter ships, and send soldiers to Kwangsi; but for the present he is not going himself. He will see how things get on before he goes again. He is completely recovered in health, and was able to make official calls upon the Consuls in Shameen the other day. It is said that by his order the Governor Aw Fung-si of Kwangsi is imposing a poll tax upon the inhabitants of Kwangsi of three cash per head, which is being collected every day, his object being to distinguish the good from the disorderly people. Wuchow went on strike days ago; the Viceroy sent up 5,000 soldiers to suppress the disorder. If he continues in his present *regime* and imposes a poll tax also in Kwangtung there soon will be another rebellion.

HEAVY FINES.

All the gambling concerns and lottery monopolies are in trouble, having to pay heavy squeezes to the high officials. Li Sai-kwai, the late *fantan* monopolist, who is accused of the embezzlement of the *fantan* revenue, and of bribing the clerks at the last examination to suppress the names of the successful candidates, is forced to pay 500,000 taels. He has consented to pay 400,000, and the difference will be made up by his friends. The late Magistrate Pin King-fuk, who is accused of *malfeasance* in office, is fined 120,000 taels and is to be released on payment of it, and several other officials are also requisitioned to pay. Since the Viceroy has come to Canton he has degraded over seventy officials. The military who are deprived of their customary squeezes from the gambling houses are very much dissatisfied.

The official seals will be taken down on the 21st of the Chinese (being the 7th inst.) when the Namhoi magistrate Yew will be transferred on account of his incapacity, and a new one from the North will take his place.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

On account of the rebellion and famine in Kwangsi an enormous sum has been spent to restore peace and relieve the sufferers. In fact nearly all the money was drawn from the province of Kwangtung, either by subscription, or from the Kwangtung Treasury, which has been consequently quite exhausted. The revenue of Kwangsi itself was nil last year. Though the famine has now disappeared rebellion has not been completely suppressed. As pecuniary assistance is still greatly required to defray the heavy expenses of keeping a large army for the protection of the places, and where order has been restored to prevent revisitations by the rebels, Governor Aw of Kwangsi determined to impose a poll tax of three cash per day, and to increase the *lekin* taxes. The latter has been met with strong opposition from all classes of merchants, who have been already heavily taxed,

and moreover have met with very hard times. As it was in vain to reason with the governor, the merchants have determined to go on strike. This, it is said, started in Wuchow on the 25th ultimo. Many letters have been received from parts of Kwangsi by the Kwangtung merchants, telling them to stop sending goods thither.

H.E. Shum intends to proceed to Kwangsi again to root out the rebellion, for since his return to Kwangtung the rebels who took refuge in the mountain fastnesses have again made their appearance in many districts, the officials of which are too weak to cope with them. Many telegrams have been received in Kwangtung for reinforcements. His Excellency has given an order to the local magistrates to make every preparation and to hire boats in readiness to convey him and the soldiers thither.

On the 1st and 2nd instant two or three garrisons were embarked for Wuchow under the command of military officers named Chan and Cheng, and His Excellency will go shortly too. Some of the officials and gentry have entreated Shum not to leave Canton. They say that if he goes away Canton will be in a critical condition, rumours being constantly current that plots have been planned to seize the city.

Work on the Canton and Hankow railway is speedily progressing. Rails have been laid as far as Chai-pin, and the road between Samshui and Fatsan has been satisfactorily prepared. The Shek-wai-tong branch has also been constructed. On the 13th ult. the railway engineers started to make a survey of the roads in the vicinity of Shek-wai-tong for the purpose of constructing another branch to Fo-g-cheun.

FOOCHOW.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Foochow, 2nd March.

THE NEW YEAR.

It seems ancient history to talk of China New Year. The banks here followed Shanghai and were closed from the Tuesday to Saturday inclusive. Everything passed off very quietly save for the usual noisy shades that inspire gong-beating and crackers. We had brilliant weather. A shooting-party of 4 guns got a very good bag during the holidays at Santuao with 17 head of game, including 18 geese and 80 teal.

DEPARTURES.

Mr. S. M. Russell, of the Imperial Maritime Customs staff here, has been appointed Deputy Commissioner at Canton, and expects to leave for that port at the end of this week. Mr. Russell only came to Foochow some 15 months ago, direct from England, where he had been on furlough. Mr. Russell was previously attached to the Imperial College at Peking, where he spent some 21 years. Mr. and Mrs. Russell both went through the siege. I have just heard that Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hughes are also leaving the port at very short notice, probably this week. Mr. Hughes has been H.B.M. Vice-Consul at Pagoda Anchorage, and has now been appointed to the British Consulate at Kiungchow. Mr. Ch. Doyère, late of the Foochow Arsenal, left for Shanghai on his way to Europe per s.s. *Haeslin*, on 27th inst.

BALL.

By invitation of the "Bachelor Maids" of the port, a Leap Year Ball was held at the Club on the 29th February. The costume was *bal poudré*, which lent itself to a most pleasing variety, whilst the rooms were beautifully decorated; and, in fact, as it was in the hands of the ladies, it goes without saying that the evening was a grand success. By the way, our programmes were red, and in the shape of an heart! I have not heard of any accidents to unwary or nervous bachelors as yet.

Besides the two large battleships ordered from England, the Japanese Government has arranged, according to a Tokyo despatch to the *Osaka Mainichi*, that work will shortly be taken in hand for the construction of three destroyers at the Admiralty yard of Yokosuka. The despatch adds that the authorities have also decided to build a submarine for the Japanese Navy.

NORTHERN NOTES.

The following items are from the *P. & T. Times* of the 27th ult.:

The new Tartar General of Jehol is said to have been endeavouring to improve the local government there and bring the finances into something like order, also to encourage education. He has been so successful that he has submitted a very satisfactory report to the Throne.

A gentleman just arrived from Moukden says objection was made to his coming down by train to Newchwang, so he had to take cart to Simintun and take the train there, a long and tedious journey. He noticed a number of Russian troops near the Simintun terminus ready for any emergency apparently, but they have not yet seized the line.

The General at Kulun reports Russian officers are busy in Mongolia buying horses, and carry passports from the Tartar General of Fengtien, granting them exemption from all duties, etc., but these passes are dated prior to the outbreak of hostilities. The Russians receive every assistance from the Llama there.

A telegram was received by the Waiwup from Moukden on the 22nd inst. stating that a Russian officer of high rank, who was wounded badly in the leg, was brought to General Chang's yamen by two Russian soldiers. The officer asked for protection, and stated that he did not wish his presence known there.

Two tugboats broke through the ice from Tongku to Taku yesterday morning without much difficulty, the ice there being thin and rotten. At the bends along the river it is still thick, new ice forming the last few nights and holding the floated-down blocks together. Next week, however, there is a prospect of a complete break-up all the way down, and of steamers being able to reach the Bund.

CHINA FIRE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

THIRTY-FIFTH ORDINARY MEETING.

The thirty-fifth ordinary meeting of shareholders in the Company was held at the Company's Offices, No. 3 Queen's Road Central, on the 10th inst. at 11.30 a.m. for the purpose of receiving a statement of accounts, and the report of the directors for the year ending 31st December, 1903. Those present were Mr. E. Goetz (chairman), Messrs. N. A. Siebs, A. G. Wood, E. Shellim, H. W. Slade, C. A. Tones, and A. Haupt (directors), Mr. G. L. Tomlin (secretary), and Messrs. R. C. Wilcox, J. Wheeler, J. J. Leiria, A. H. M. da Silva, T. H. Reid, A. V. Apcar, Hart Buck, C. Pemberton, and Chan P. t.

Mr. G. L. TOMLIN read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen,—The directors' report and statement of accounts having been in your hands for the past three weeks I will now adopt the usual custom and take them as read. It gives the board much pleasure to present you with such a satisfactory result for the working of the year 1903, which is due to the loss ratio being only 41.71 per cent. of the premium income. This is exceptionally light and cannot be expected every year. We propose to deal with the profit of \$212,868.83 as follows:—

Dividend of \$6 and bonus of \$1 per share on 20,000 shares ...	\$14,000.00
Bonus to contributors of premia ...	100.25
Addition to extra reserve fund, which will then stand at \$125,675.56 as shown in the balance-sheet ...	52,915.14
Transfer to investment fluctuation account, to meet difference between cost and market value of investments on 31st December, 1903 ...	15,000.00
Write off loss on sale of Rural Building Lots Nos. 42 and 84 ...	1,068.49
Bonus to office staff ...	3,785.00
	<hr/> \$212,868.88

which we hope will meet with your approval. Being placed in the happy position of having built up the extra reserve fund to the equivalent of a year's dividend of \$6, we are now enabled to recommend the payment of a bonus of \$1 per

share in addition to the usual dividend of \$6, or say 35 per cent. on the paid-up capital of the company. We trust that future profits will admit of the extra reserve fund being further increased, while at the same time shareholders may have the benefit of a bonus in addition to their usual dividend. We thought it advisable to provide for certain depreciation in our investments, and have set aside the sum of \$15,000 for that purpose. After writing down the said investments to their market value as on 31st December last there remains a balance of \$2561.71 to the credit of investment fluctuation account. In this connection, I can assure you that the company's holdings of shares in other public companies are quite sound, and our funds are invested in steady dividend-paying stocks; but, as you know, we have been passing through a period of depression, and therefore these investments show a depreciation over their original cost. As business men I think you will agree with the board in providing for this temporary depreciation. In regard to our mortgages the company's surveyors have reported on the properties under loan to us, and we are satisfied that our advances are perfectly safe. You will have noticed the disappearance from our balance sheet of the item "Rural Building Lots No. 42 and 84." We received an offer for this property, and decided to dispose of it, and I think the sale was a good one as far as we were concerned, although it showed a small loss, which we are now providing for. Our working account for 1903 shows a gain of \$66,149.81 over that of the previous year, owing principally to an increased premium and interest income and to our losses being somewhat less. We hope that the sum carried forward will more than meet our unexpired liability under 1903 policies and leave us with a satisfactory profit to deal with 12 months hence. During the past year we have taken two important steps in the company's business. First of all, we have decided to withdraw from Japan rather than lock up funds to the extent of 100,000 yen as a Government deposit, and we are therefore allowing our risks to expire, and in the course of a few months we will have no further liability in that country. The second step referred to is the opening of an agency in London for the transaction of United Kingdom insurance business. We are represented by a gentleman of considerable experience, and we are working with the tariff offices, so we have hopes that the scheme we have entered upon will result in profit to the company. As, however, we only commenced to participate in business as from the Michaelmas quarter, it would be somewhat premature to say anything further on this subject. Fires have been rather numerous both here and at outposts since the close of the year, but I am happy to say that we have not suffered any severe loss by any one of them. I will now move that the Directors' report and statement of accounts for the year 1903 as presented be adopted. After this has been seconded I shall be pleased to answer any questions that may be put relating to business before the meeting.

Mr. WILCOX, in seconding the adoption of report and accounts, said:—I think, Mr. Chairman, we may congratulate ourselves upon the report placed before us and upon the remarks made by yourself. The vicissitudes of fire insurance are pretty well illustrated by the history of the last two years. Last year, when I had the pleasure of seconding the adoption of the report, I remember deploring the fact that we had to take some \$18,500 from the extra reserve fund to make up our dividend, and at the same time I expressed a pious hope that we should be able to restore that amount in the following year. Well, we have been able to do that, and more than that. We are going to enjoy a bonus of \$1 a share, which is very satisfactory to the shareholders. I quite coincide with the remarks of the Chairman that it will not do to expect such years as this every year. If we get one occasionally we shall be fortunate. The probability is we shall not get a succession of good years. It is a good thing to keep the additional reserve fund intact, as far as possible, ready for reverses, so that we may be able to draw upon it to pay the usual dividend. With regard to the new features mentioned by the Chairman, we shall have to see how these work out before saying any-

thing about them. I am pleased to know that it is possible to give a bonus to the staff. I am sure they deserve it; and the shareholders will be very pleased to endorse that statement. With these few remarks, I beg to second the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. J. WHEELER proposed that the appointments of Messrs. E. Shellim, H. W. Slale, C. A. Tomes, and A. Haupt on the Board of Directors be confirmed.

Mr. HART BUCK seconded, and it was carried. Mr. J. J. LEIRIA proposed that Messrs. A. G. Wood and E. Shellim be re-elected directors.

Mr. A. H. M. da SILVA seconded, and it was carried.

Mr. J. WHEELER proposed that Messrs. Hutton Potts and A. R. Lowe be re-elected auditors.

Mr. A. V. APCAR seconded, and it was carried.

The CHAIRMAN:—That is all the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be posted this afternoon. Thank you for your attendance.

HONGKONG AND KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN CO., LD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., was held on the 10th inst. in the Company's offices, 2 Connaught Road. Hon. C. W. Dickson (chairman) presided, and there were also present Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., Messrs. E. Goetz, A. Haupt, E. A. Hewett, A. J. Raymond, H. Schubart, E. Shellim, N. A. Siebs, E. S. Wheeler, and A. G. Wood (directors), R. C. Wilcox, F. D. Barratto, S. J. Michael, J. R. Michael, and R. J. Macgowan (acting secretary). The notices calling the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—The report and accounts have been in your hands for several days, and I propose with your permission to take them as read. There was a satisfactory increase of business during the year, and a good demand existed for godown accommodation. We were able, with the large premises we have erected in recent years, to meet all the demands made upon us, with the result that we able to come before you with the best balance sheet the Company has ever shown; while the policy we have pursued of keeping abreast, and perhaps even a little ahead, of the times in regard to first-class godowns has been proved to be a sound one. The Company's house property has also been well let during the year. The balance at credit of profit and loss account, including \$14,481.69 brought forward from 1902, is \$15,661.41. It is proposed to write off wharves and other property \$67,149.73. At first sight this may appear a large amount to devote to that purpose, but you will bear in mind that during the previous two years our earnings did not admit of making the provision we should otherwise have done, and your Directors have for that reason decided to write off rather more freely than usual. Turning to the working account, it is satisfactory to note that while the gross revenue is \$69,245.41 more than in 1902, the expenditure is nearly \$10,000.00 less. Last year I referred to the fact that no case of plague had occurred in the quarters of our Chinese employees, and I am pleased to be able to still make the same statement. The somewhat heavy expense incurred in sanitary reforms has been amply repaid by what we may regard as the result. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts, I should be pleased to answer any questions.

Mr. J. R. MICHAEL said he would like to make a few remarks about the accounts. First of all he would like to congratulate the directors and the management on the very splendid accounts they had presented to the shareholders and also on the economy shown in the working of the Company. Now when it came to the profits earned he saw the profit was \$79,000 more, in spite of last year's chairman's speech, which was pessimistic and held out very little prospect for this year. The shareholders had been obtaining dividends from 1898 to 1901 at the rate of \$5 per share, when the Company's profits were much less than last year. In 1902,

as the profits were less owing to bad times, their dividend was reduced to \$1.50. Now 1903 had been what he might call a year of plenty, because the profits made were really much more than what they expected; but what he maintained was this, that shareholders looked forward to be treated according to the prosperity of the Company. With regard to the writing down the directors had ordered, he was very much in favour of that; there was no better principle than writing down to a fair and reasonable amount. But two years ago Mr. Bell Irving, who was chairman then, told them that their property was in excellent condition and that the wharves, railways, rolling stock, launches, lighters, and machinery stood on their books at auction prices. Well, that meant a deal. Last year about \$50,000 had been transferred to depreciation and repairs account and written down. This year these items had doubled, \$102,000 having been transferred to depreciation and repairs account and written off wharves, railways, rolling stock, launches, lighters, and so on. Now, in view of what Mr. Bell Irving told them they naturally thought their property was very sound, as very good prices could not be got in auction. Wharves had been written down 20 per cent, for they appeared in the assets at \$10,000, and \$20,000 had been written off that value. What was the life of a wharf to wipe off 20 per cent., and when were the shareholders then to get the benefit of a prosperous year? He dared say he might be told that shareholders would like very much to have a steady dividend. Well, he should say it was not so, because those people who wanted steady dividends on their money could fall back on their debentures. When we put our money into a concern, if there is any prosperity, we benefit; if there is any adversity, we go down with it. Further also, Mr. Bell Irving told us two years ago about the value of our assets. He said they had got a magnificent property at Kowloon, comprising 909,900 square feet of land with unrivalled deep sea-water frontage and covered with first-class buildings, which land cost them only \$2.58 per square foot. It would be impossible, Mr. Michael thought, to acquire such sites with buildings on them for less than \$7 or \$8 per square foot; and if they based the dividend on the value, the shareholders hardly got 3 per cent. In this view he had nothing to say, but he would ask the directors to consider matters a little more from the shareholders' point of view and try to improve their position in view of the progress of the Company's prosperity.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the facts mentioned by Mr. Michael were of course before the directors when they decided to make the recommendations which they had done in the report. The aim of the directors was to maintain as far as possible an equality in dividend, and in carrying out that aim they were unable last year, as he had explained, to write off as much as would have been written off had the earnings of the Company admitted of it. There might be room for differences of opinion as to the necessity for writing down the Company's properties, but there could be none that such a policy strengthened the position of the Company, and he was certain it would be favourably regarded by the great majority of the shareholders (Applause). He thought a steady dividend was preferable to a feast one year and a famine the next, as he understood Mr. Michael to advocate.

Mr. MICHAEL said he had already replied to that. It seemed, then, that the directors had decided that the dividend should remain the same, whether they had \$79,000 more profit than they had last year: the shareholders had not to get any more. As he had said, they had the debentures for those who wanted a steady dividend, but when the ordinary shareholders put their money into a concern like this they wanted to reap the fruits of their prosperity. He was sure other people would say what he was saying; there was nothing unreasonable in it. When any bad year comes you put down the dividend, and we do not say anything; it is a bad year, and we do not complain.

The CHAIRMAN replied that the directors regarded this as an exceptional year, and very rightly so, looking back on the past; and as there was no guarantee of a continuance of the very satisfactory result of last year, he thought it was erring on the side of prudence not to

declare a very large dividend in excess of what they had been in the habit of doing, which might give an impression that they regarded this prosperity as lasting.

Mr. MICHAEL asked if he gathered from that that next year if they made about the same profit they would get a better dividend.

The CHAIRMAN—Next year must look after itself. I cannot say what will be done.

There being no further remarks,

The CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. R. C. WILCOX in seconding said he thought with regard to Mr. Michael's remarks that most of the shareholders were of opinion, with the chairman, that it was safer and more prudent to have a steady though a small dividend. He quite sympathised with Mr. Michael about wishing to get a larger dividend, if the profits of the Company permitted. If these profits continued to increase, he thought they could get a larger dividend, but before they asked for that they should see for two or three years a settled, continued prosperity which would enable them to get upon a good footing and be sure of their ground. He thought the safest way certainly was to continue to write off on depreciation to a very large amount. The wear and tear of the wharves and godowns was very great, and he thought it would be much more prudent to put a generous sum to depreciation.

The motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN moved the confirmation of the appointment of Messrs. E. Shellim and E. S. Whittaker to the directorate.

Mr. F. D. BARRETT seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN moved the re-election of the retiring directors, Messrs. H. Schubart and C. H. Thompson.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN moved the re-election of Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. O. D. Gourdin as auditors.

Mr. J. R. MICHAEL seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

This was all the business.

Dividend warrants are now ready and can be had on application.

GEO. FENWICK & CO., LD.

FIFTEENTH ORDINARY MEETING.

The fifteenth ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held in the Hongkong Hotel on the 9th inst., for the purpose of receiving the report of the directors, declaring a dividend, and electing director and auditor. Those present were Messrs. A. Roger (chairman), C. W. Parlance, J. Rodger, Walter King, W. H. Purcell, S. J. Michael, Hart Buck, and W. G. Winterburn (secretary).

After the report and accounts had been read the CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, following the customary procedure we will, with your permission, take the report and statement of accounts as read, seeing that they have been in your hands for several days. Your directors hope that you consider the year's working satisfactory and that the proposed division of profits meets with your approval. We have been enabled to add another \$5,000 to the reserve fund, which now stands at the substantial figure of \$70,000. The item "sundry debtors" appears at a much higher sum than usual, viz. \$50,936.93. Since December 31st however, about \$46,000 of this has been collected and the balance we expect to come in in due course; on the other hand, the whole of the "sundry creditors" has been paid. You will also notice that 10 per cent. has been written off the stock-in-trade; this we considered a prudent measure in view of the rise in exchange tending to depreciate the dollar value of our materials. We have been kept fully employed during the year, and on many occasions had to work night and day in order to get the work executed in time; this remark especially applies to ship repairing, and I am glad to say that we appear to have given satisfaction to all concerned. In shore work we have had a fair share, more especially structural engineering, and house work, such as hot-water installation, a branch we have had considerable experience in during

late years. The launches, machinery, and property have been kept in good order, and a number of new machine tools added. In May last, Mr. W. Parlance, who had served on the directorate since the change of articles of association, and prior to that as a member of consulting committee, being ordered home by his medical advisors, resigned his position. Mr. Hart Buck was asked, and consented to occupy the seat. The latter gentleman being about to leave the Colony finds it necessary to resign, and Mr. Parlance consent to re-join the board, subject to the approval of this meeting.

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. W. H. PURCELL in the seconding said he did not think he need say any more after the Chairman's speech except to congratulate the shareholders on the possession of such valuable property. In fact, they had enough money to pay bigger dividends, but in view of other expenses it was perhaps better not to do so.

Mr. J. RODGER proposed that Mr. W. Parlance be re-elected on the board of directors.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL seconded, and it was carried.

Mr. W. KING moved that Mr. Thomas Arnold be re-elected auditor.

Mr. HART BUCK seconded, and it was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN—I thank you for your attendance, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be sent out to-morrow.

CHINA & MANILA STEAMSHIP CO., LD.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-first ordinary general meeting to be held at the office of the general managers on the 19th March at 11 a.m., is as follows:—

Annexed we beg to submit to shareholders the usual annual statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1903, showing a debit balance of \$63,123.66 to be carried forward to new account.

The past year has been the most severe in the history of the company and the report is to a corresponding degree unsatisfactory. Competition has been keen and the earnings especially from Manila have greatly fallen away. The *Diamante* was sold, as recorded in last year's reports, and the profit on her book value placed to profit and loss. No provision has been made for depreciation on the present fleet which consists now of the *Zafiro*, *Rubi*, and *Perla*, but they are all in first class order.

Of the increased capital of 10,000 shares authorised December 28th, 1901, four thousand two hundred and seventy-five (4,275) have been applied for and fully paid up. A small number, on which the first calls only had been paid, were declared forfeited, and these are now the property of the Company.

Consulting Committee.—In accordance with the Articles of Association, Messrs. N. A. Siebs, D. E. Brown, and J. H. Lewis retire, but offer themselves for re-election. Mr. A. V. Apear has been invited to join the board, and his appointment requires confirmation.

Auditors.—The accounts have been audited by Messrs. T. Arnold and W. H. Potts, who are recommended for re-election.

The accounts are as follows:—

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.	
Balance brought forward from 1902	\$ 44,351.81
Consulting committee's fees	4,000.00
Auditors' fees	400.00
Interest	25,942.59
Exchange	5,230.05
Charge	6,985.77
Depreciation on buoys, moorings & stores	908.58
Loss on working account	149,776.12
	\$237,657.92
Profit on sale of S.S. <i>Diamante</i>	\$ 142,748.40
Unclaimed dividends written off	562.59
Amount at credit of underwriting account transferred	31,223.36
Balance	\$ 63,123.66
	\$237,657.92

BALANCE-SHEET.

LIABILITIES.	
Authorised capital—30,000 shares at \$50 each \$1,500,000, issued and fully paid	\$ 1,213,750.00
24,275 shares at \$50 each	1,213,750.00
Calls on shares forfeited now belonging to the Company	8,785.00
Sundry creditors	40,874.95
Company's bankers	446,931.32
	\$1,710,310.27

ASSETS.	
Value of fleet <i>Rubi</i> , <i>Zafiro</i> , and <i>Perla</i>	\$ 1,486,377.75
Value of Hongkong buoys and moorings	3,478.25
Less depreciation for 1903	178.25
	3,300.00
Value of Manila buoys and moorings	4,195.32
Less depreciation for 1903	195.32
	4,000.00
Value of stores on hand	17,095.01
Less depreciation for 1903	595.01
	16,500.00
Coal on hand	15,137.00
Proportion of premium on current policies	54,759.37
Sundry debtors	15,194.36
Outstanding freights 1903	50,068.55
Cash	1,882.58
Balance of profit and loss account	63,123.66
	\$1,710,310.27

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 7th March

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

Before the Chief Justice and a special jury a case was heard in which the National Bank of China sought to recover from Chee On and Co., coal-merchants, 22, Li Yuen East Street, and Chan Lui Chiu, of Kobe, the sum of \$64,000 odd due on bills of exchange drawn in Japan for payment in Hongkong, which were dishonoured, and charges incurred in connection therewith. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. H. W. Looker, of Messrs Deacon, Looker, and Deacon), appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson, of Messrs Wilkinson and Grist), appeared for the defendants.

The following special jury was empanelled:—Messrs H. E. E. Hunter (Hongkong and Shanghai Bank), W. M. Watson (J. W. Hutchinson and Company), W. J. Saunders (Union Insurance Company), F. H. A. Fuchs (Siemssen and Company), C. H. Thompson (Ross and Company), N. Mumford (Lloyd's Register), and A. Howard (Sassoon & Co.).

CLAIM BY THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA.

The pleadings showed that the two defendants were brothers, one trading under the title of Chee On and Company, in Hongkong, while the other, Chan Lui Chiu, carried on business in Japan. For some years past Chan Lui Chiu had been sending shipments of coal from Japan to his brother in Hongkong, and it was his practice to draw bills of exchange on the National Bank of China against these shipments. From 1898 to 1901 about \$300,000 had been drawn in this way, and all the bills were duly accepted and paid by Chee On and Company. In May, June, and July, 1901, the bills, forming the subject matter of this action, were drawn, and amounted to about \$64,000, but were dishonoured. The brother in Japan had not sent any coal down during those months, and consequently his brother in Hongkong refused to pay the bills. When the first bill was dishonoured the defendant in Kobe deposited with the Bank in Kobe as security the title-deeds for the mining rights he had. The defendant apparently held these deeds, as mortgagee from the owner Soga Kenjiro. It was then arranged that defendant should execute a formal transfer of his mortgage when called upon to do so by the Bank. Thenceforth several interviews were held between the defendant and the Bank, in which defendant took up a position that he would pay, but wanted time. Finally, instead of executing a formal assignment, it was arranged that defendant should procure from Soga Kenjiro a new mortgage made direct with the Bank leaving him out of the mortgage. This

mortgage had been made, with several special provisions, under which defendant undertook certain obligations which were clearly set forth. So far no money had been paid, either for the dishonoured bills, or for the charges incurred in connection with them.

In his statement of defence, Chan Lui Chin admitted that in consideration of advances made to him by the plaintiffs he agreed that the amounts should be sent to and paid to the plaintiffs in Hongkong, but he denied that the documents were bills of exchange as alleged. He made various allegations against plaintiff of unnecessary delay and negligence, and denied that he was liable as surety or in any other respect under the mortgage.

To this plaintiffs replied that the execution of the two mortgages was the wrongful act of Soga Kenjiro in breach of the terms of the mortgage of 27th August, 1901, and maintained that Chan Lui Chin was bound jointly with Soga Kenjiro respecting the fulfilment of the terms of that mortgage.

Mr. Sharp, K.C., read the pleadings and said that upon them the following issue was settled—Assuming for the purpose of this issue that the translation of the mortgage, dated 27th August, 1901, is a true translation of the said mortgage, and that the law of Japan allows priority to mortgages of the same property according to their respective dates of registration, is the bank entitled under the said mortgage to recover from Chan Lui Chin such portion of 72,000 yen thereby secured as is claimed in the action? He went on to say that notwithstanding an express covenant to the contrary, two other mortgages were made on this property in breach of that undertaking and were registered. The defendant had guaranteed that Soga should not effect these further mortgages. Defendant now sought to get out of it and to avoid repayment of this \$64,000 which he had in the Bank on the ground that the Bank did not prevent Soga breaking his contract. As a common-sense and business proposition this was rather ridiculous. Defendant's case was apparently the negligence of the Bank. Now, negligence was a breach of a positive duty. If there was not a duty there could be no negligence. Unless it was shown that there was a positive duty on the Bank there could be no negligence on the part of the Bank. It was argued that it was the usual rule, apart from special circumstances, that the creditor was bound to preserve the securities in his own hands, and was liable for the loss of his securities caused by his own negligence. Here the loss was caused by Soga's own breach of the covenant guaranteed by the defendant. The Bank's position in the matter was very clear. The Bank had to register the mortgage, and did so promptly. Two of the mines were not in the name of Soga but in the name of somebody else and an injunction was registered against a transfer of these mines into Soga's name. The question for the jury would be: having regard to the contract between these people, was the Bank guilty of negligence? He would submit that it was not, and that it was therefore entitled to their verdict.

Evidence was then taken, and in the afternoon an adjournment was made.

After evidence had been taken on the 8th and 9th instant, the case concluded on the 10th. The verdict will be published in our next issue.

Wednesday, 9th March.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

ALLEGED LIBEL.

Fifteen Indians appeared as defendants when T. Elvins, the plaintiff, claimed from the sum of \$500 as damages for an alleged libel contained in a letter dated 25th November 1903.

The Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., (instructed by Mr. E. J. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist), appeared for the plaintiff, and in the absence of Mr. M. W. Slade, engaged in in another case, Mr. J. Hastings represented the defendants.

In the statement of claim it is said that the plaintiff, until his suspension from duty, was a

superintendent of watchmen at the Hunghom branch of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co.'s premises. The defendants were watchmen. The plaintiff had suffered damage from the defendants falsely and maliciously writing and publishing a letter, concerning the plaintiff, sent by them to Wilson, dated 25th November, 1903. The letter read:—"Sir,—We Indian Watchman staff of the Dock hereby report to you that unless we are better and fairly treated by the Head Watchman, Mr. Elvin, we will all resign from the company employment. Mr. Elvin is nothing but a downright rascal and rogue. How is it he allow those Portuguese watchmans of his at gate smoke sit down and sleep while on duty without reporting the matter to you or even find them one cent, but, if it was any of us Indian found doing so, we will be reported at once to you and he will get us discharged or find \$2 or \$3 which we know very well you don't bear of it, but all the same he find us and pocket the money. He has always been getting money from us ever since he joined the Company again, but since we have stopped giving him any more money or cumschaw, when every new Indian is taken on, he has turn on us and does his uttermost in getting us into trouble and make such lying (lying) reports about us to you. Therefore instance No. 3 (Ralla Singh) has lent him \$300 and more and Mr. T. Elvin promised him he will look after him and will do him a good turn and this is how he does it the swindler after he has got the money. Mr. Wilson, Sir, we are very sorry to tell you this, but we can't help it. Mr. Elvin has driven us to it that he said Mr. T. Elvin has been receiving bribes of \$20 to \$30 from the sweepers of the yard for allowing them to carry off the sweepings to the Dust Boat from the shop with cuttings of brass, iron and steel. This can be proved if you will take the trouble to see it for yourself, and also he receive bribes from the night soil men that carry the soil out of the yard in the morning, by allowing them to do the same. He charged the one, the other day, for stealing brass from the moulder shop because the coolies did not give him any money, the case would not have been heard of if he had got the money he wanted from the man by his Chinese detective. That detective is a bad man, Mr. Wilson, same as Ah Man all the time squeezing money himself. And for Mr. Elvin where his wife get so many fancy and new dresses from—a new dress every other day—all from the money he get out of the Indians and what he squeezes he get from his Chinese detective. Mr. Wilson, do you allow Mr. Gomes to interfere in the office with what the Indian watchman doing and saying. 'What for you report about to Mr. Wilson, Portuguese watchmen no good; bye and bye all belong Portuguese, Indian men all finished.' Also Mr. Silva of the boiler shop has been interfering also with the Indians too. This is Mr. Elvin doing, teaching them what to say and go against the Indian and bye and bye all the Indian will leave and get the Portuguese instead. No. 3 watchman can tell you this what they have been saying. Mr. Wilson if things do not change we will have to resign and let Mr. Elvin get all his Portuguese. It will please him, and his wife will be able to ride in a carriage and pairs and the Company will then see how they will like the Portuguese. There is no other Indian will come to this employment and it is so hard to employ them because it is known all over Hongkong the rascally way that Mr. Elvin treats his Indian watchmen. P.S.—We all the watchmen are ready if you want to swear us that he always wants bribes from us and if not please get him to swear when he was sick living at Tsim Tsa Tsui he called three of us in his house and asked us to give money or if not when he rejoined he will send us away. Then we three men went to his house and paid him \$100. You want man who may speak English, but when one is employed Mr. Elvin do dismissed him because he says that any man who speaks English do not his duty properly, and to you he reports that no Indian is able to speak and understand English and therefore he keeps Portuguese on gates. Portuguese will never do as good duty as Indians." In consequence of defamatory expressions contained in this letter the plaintiff has been and is greatly injured in his credit and reputation and has been suspended by his em-

ployers until he can clear himself from the charges. The defence states that the defendants published the said letter without malice and *bona fide* believing all the statements therein to be true. It was the duty of the defendants and to the common interest of the defendants and said company for defendants to make complaint to and request investigation by the said W. Wilson of the matters set out in the said letter. By reason of the premises the said letter and all the statements contained therein were a *libel* privileged.

Evidence was led.

BOXING.

DISGRACEFUL SCENE.

A boxing entertainment took place at the City Hall on the 8th inst., the ring as usual being fixed up on the stage of the Theatre. The principal attraction was the match for \$1,000 a-side and a purse between C. C. St. Clair, middle-weight champion of Brooklyn, U.S.A., and D. Morgan, of H.M.S. *Vengeance*, heavy-weight champion of the China Station. A third attempt was also made to decide the bantam-weight championship of this Station between two men who have drawn twice already. A very good audience filled the Theatre, and a commencement was made at 9 p.m. The events were as follows:—

1. Clark (*Glory*) v. Griffin (*Glory*). 10 rounds for \$50.—Clark won, after a not very exhilarating contest, in the 10th round.

2. Lacey (*Vengeance*) v. Layton (*Albion*).—Lacey went away with a rush, but Layton, who showed much improved form, stopped him easily. Lacey had two falls in Round 1, owing to his shoes, which he afterwards discarded. At the end of Round 6, Layton was the fresher, but his blows had no effect on Lacey, who began to do better. After the 10th Lacey's blows on the left ribs began to tell, and he looked a winner in the 15th and 16th. Layton pulled himself together, however, and had none the worst of the last two bouts, though obviously tired. One judge gave a draw, the other a win to Layton; but the referee refused to separate the men, who thus fought a third draw. A very fair decision.

It was ten minutes before midnight when the main event was ready to commence. A very unnecessary amount of time was wasted after the interval, Morgan being visible in the wings of the stage, but St. Clair being out of sight. What was the reason of the long wait it is impossible to imagine. The meeting of the two men had been much looked forward to, and a good exhibition of boxing was expected. What actually occurred was far different. We can only describe the scene as disgraceful; and, if it does not damn heavy-weight boxing in Hongkong for a long time to come, then Hongkong patrons of boxing can put up with a lot. We do not propose to describe the affair in detail. At the beginning the referee, Mr. Ryan, came forward and announced that the fight would be under Queensberry rules revised, and that a blow would be allowed in a clinch when one arm was free. This arrangement, which we understand was in the articles, was the principal cause of the trouble. The first round had hardly commenced when St. Clair adopted his usual clinching tactics—not illegitimate, it may be remarked, however distasteful to those who admire straight-forward boxing. In the breaks-away the American took full advantage of the conditions. Morgan did not do so, and we doubt whether he fully understood them. Certainly the naval part of the audience did not, and shouts of "foul!" were soon ringing and continued throughout. In the third round the affair nearly ended, for the referee in forcing a break apparently got a heavy punch in the ribs from St. Clair, and turned round and struck him in the mouth. The audience, for the most part, misinterpreted this action as a protest (!) against a foul. Shouts became absolutely deafening at this point. However, the fight continued. Morgan repeatedly got in, but only one blow of his was really serious, this being one in the first round, landing on St. Clair's eye. St. Clair went on clinching, tactics which Morgan evidently did not like, and which the audience much resented. The uproar continued, and it was difficult to hear the time-keeper's voice.

Finally in the sixth round, after St. Clair, who had gone down twice and refused to do anything but clinch, had seemingly tried to throw his opponent, Morgan, who was having all the best of it, claimed a foul and held up his hands. St. Clair rushed in, struck him in the stomach, and as Morgan bent forward caught him another blow in the face. This finished the affair. Cries arose from all parts of the house, seconds were in the ring, and bluejackets on the stage. The police stepped in and stopped the fight, which the referee gave (or tried to give, for his voice could not be heard) as a draw. With reference to the question of fouls, in justice to St. Clair it must be pointed out that the referee, though he cautioned him (as he also did Morgan for some unknown reason), did not give any against him, and that Morgan made a mistake in throwing up his hands. Morgan is a very fair, indeed over-chivalrous boxer; but he should know that it is permissible to take full advantage of the rules, and that these should be well-known before entering the ring. On the night's work the sailor should have won easily; his opponent evidently underrated him, and was in poor condition. St. Clair's style is not one which could ever be popular in Hongkong or in circles not accustomed to the clinching methods and other finesses of professional heavy-weights.

We trust that this affair will have one good effect, that it will make the authorities more careful in their supervision of boxing.

FOOTBALL.

H.M.S. "CRESSY" V. H.M.S. "LEVIATHAN."

The semi-final in the Football Shield competition was played on the Club Ground at Happy Valley on the 9th inst. The *Leviathan* kicked off, making a rush on their opponents' goal. The *Cressy* keeper made a goal save within the first few minutes. Murphy, of the *Leviathan*, hurt his ankle and was carried off the field, being taken away to hospital in a ricksha. The *Leviathan* thus were one man short. McCoy (*Cressy*) scored the first goal; Mills (*Cressy*) a second. The *Leviathans*, though they played an excellent game, did not score in the first half. On the re-start the play was again very fast, the *Leviathans* having decidedly the best of it. Kinch (*Leviathan*) scored a goal; and a little later Oldham scored another, making the scores level. An exceptionally good game ended in a draw.—H.M.S. *Cressy*, 2; H.M.S. *Leviathan*, 2.

H.K.F.C. V. GUNROOM OFFICER OF FLEET.

This Rugby game, played at Happy Valley on the 8th inst., ended in a win for the Naval team. The latter kicked off, and a very interesting first half ensued, nothing being scored by either side. In the second half Crake eventually got away, passed to Jordan, who in turn passed to Black, who scored a try. It was not converted. The Navy looked like equalising, when Dixon secured a free kick, and play was diverted to mid-field. The Navy at last scored a try, honours falling to Favell. The shot was straight, but had not force enough. The Navy had the best of it to the end of the game, Boyle scoring a second which was not converted. That was just before the whistle blew. The game ended:—Navy, 2 tries; Club, 1.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE 30TH JANUARY ANNIVERSARY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 5th March.

Sir,—Your paragraph of news relating to the observance of this anniversary in London should interest not a few adherents of Church and monarchy. While avowed Jacobites mark this day with affection, the Church everywhere, and not only a local City church, is bound in faithfulness to note this day in some measure. By such attention Churchmen are not of necessity committed to any political party whatsoever.

While gatherings of men of mutual shires and schools abound in Hongkong, does not this day remind us that a gathering for historical

debate or discussion embracing men of the Thistle and the Rose, be it white or red, is still lacking, and we still live only in and for the present.—Yours truly,

PAVIMENTO.

LOST ON HONGKONG ISLAND.

A MIDNIGHT RAMBLE.

Mr. Alec Marsh once told me that he lost his way in the course of a walk on the island of Hongkong, and as he had a better knowledge of the island's roads than anyone else I ever knew there is a certain amount of consideration due towards two luckless colonists who had a similar experience on the farther side of our Rock two nights ago. We walked out by Tytarm to near Stanley, and the going was pretty hard. Unfortunately we put off the return journey until it was dark, confident in our knowledge of the road over the hill, to get back home well before midnight. An old Chinaman came with us as a guide. He carried a lantern which just served to make darkness visible. At the top of the first hill we gave him twenty cents, and telling him to go back to his bed, hied us on our unguided way. To our cost we found that we had done a very unwise thing in dispensing with his services. In wandering up the crooked path we happened to take the wrong turning at some point or other, and while we walked along under the impression that we were dipping down into the Happy Valley we suddenly awoke to the fact, borne in upon us by the strange configuration of the land, that we had been travelling not towards Hongkong but away from it. A reference to our watches acquainted us that it was now past midnight. We were high up on the hillside, and beneath us there was a broad bay. The road on which we journeyed was invisible for more than twenty yards in front, but the bay was refulgent with phosphorescence. As wave after wave broke on the shore and spread out into gleaming silver, the scene was one to entrance the eye. Somehow or other it brought to my mind Wordsworth's lines commemorative of the sea of daffodils that met his gaze in one of his beloved glades—

And still my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

However, the Buffalo who was the companion of my walk disturbed all semblance of sentimentalism by a very realistic proposition—namely, that we should go down to the beach and have a bathe. A midnight bathe! It seems a strange proceeding now that it can be looked back upon, but it was more enjoyable than many a midsummer swim I have had in the Onse's upper reaches. It was like bathing in molten silver, for every dip of the hand was followed by a phosphorescent streak, and the water was pleasantly warm. While we were engaged in the subsequent ordeal of drying ourselves without towels an old Chinese fisherman came up and accosted us. Probably he thought we were evil spirits. At least he called us *Fan-kwei*. As the result of a ragged conversation and twenty cents the ancient one volunteered to set us on the straight road for Hongkong, and we gladly availed ourselves of his assistance. We accordingly went to his hut on the beach—it was about as big as a hen-coop—and waited while he had a preparatory smoke. One blessing he was able to afford us was a box of matches, but he could not give us *chu*. From what we could make out—he spoke Hakka—it was apparent that we had landed in the neighbourhood of Saiwan Bay, not far from Lyeemun Pass.

It was very dark when we started out to climb the hills under the ciceronage of our fisherman. He was a good walker and took us along at a fair pace for about five or six miles. Then we descended into a valley. In the distance was a light. We struck off the roadway and made for the light. It was a little after one o'clock. The light turned out to be the glare from the window of a house. There was a Chinaman in it, and we asked him for a drink of tea or water. He gave us some water, and then made the startling announcement that there were two "European gentlemen" at the other end of the hut. Great was our relief to hear it. As it transpired we had struck the Telegraph Company's hut close beside the Golf Course. I wish that I were capable of giving to anyone a lasting

reputation; if so, I would send these two gentlemen down to posterity. They had in their possession three-quarters of a bottle of beer, and they gave it to us.

Heartened by our hospitable entertainment we proceeded on our way rejoicing. It was a long time before we reached Little Hongkong and then Abardeen, in which latter place we wakened up all the dogs of the village, and they woke up the cocks, so that we traversed the streets to the tune of early morning sounds which were enough to make Peters of us both. A lukong on his weary beat smiled broadly at us when he found out that we were not armed robbers, and directed us to take the turning to the right up the hill before reaching Abardeen Dock, and he threw a sort of Parthian shaft after us by a gratuitous piece of information to the effect that *via* the Wanchai Gap we could easily get to Hongkong in an hour and a half. I suppose he had regard for our tired appearance in his calculation. I know a man for whom I had formerly a great respect as to truthfulness. And he told me he has walked from Abardeen to the Clock Tower in thirty-five minutes. It took us more than the full period that the lukong had ventured to assert it would. I have lost my respect to a great extent for the gentleman who said he did the journey in thirty-five.

E.

JAPANESE STUDENTS' WAR SONG.

The *Japan Mail* gives the following translation of a patriotic song sung by students at a Tokyo College in honour of the recent successes:—

1. Hark to the wail of the disembodied spirits over Liaotung that was once purchased with their blood! When the wind blows drear at night o'er the yellow sands and white fields, does it bring no sound of strife? The traces of the righteous war have long since vanished, but see! over the mountains of Kan the sky is low'ring. The sun sinks behind the range of Chohaku and what shall be the doom of its ancient dynasty?

2. Hark! At the slogan of the Cossacks, the virtues of sovereignty totter. If the benevolence which ancient Confucian sages have taught in the scriptures written in the books common to us all should perish with the country, then 400 millions people will fall never to rise again. If you pity them arise and slay the cursed foes of humanity.

3. The waters of the Amur once flowed with blood and five thousand lives perished. Yet massacre was not satiated, and at Kishineff too there was a heap of corpses. They call themselves the soldiers of the Tsar—the Slavs—they are all robbers. The history that records their crimes against God and man will never be blotted out.

4. Where now are your words that talked of universal peace? Shall that mouth that swore the oath now feed on Manchuria? In the east, in the Land of Fusu our patriotic people have arisen and will slay Russians as an offering to the God of peace.

5. When peace sheds its bright lustre over the Eastern Sea, then we, taking the staff of the Merchant God shall lay strong and firm the foundations of permanent prosperity. When the sword-blade flashes on the battle-field the fate of our Home Land rests with you. Advance comrades, tried and true! Advance strong sons of a martial land.

Over a dozen well-known war correspondents for English and American papers left Tokyo at the beginning of March, in despair of being able to get any independent news or to go to the front.

An American teacher, named Herald, who had just arrived in the Philippines, while at Tannaw on the 26th ult. shot and killed the brother of the President of that place, one José de Veyra, a Filipino. It is believed that Herald did the deed under the impression that de Veyra was a robber or murderer, or both, while in fact the unfortunate man was entering the house to pay his respects to the newcomer. The case has been set for trial in April, Herald being released from custody under a \$1,500 gold cash security.

DEATH OF A PROMINENT CHINESE
AT SHANGHAI.

The *N.-C. Daily News* of the 5th inst. writes:—We greatly regret to have to chronicle the death, through consumption, yesterday morning of our esteemed fellow-citizen, Mr. Tong Kid-son, at his late residence in Markham Road at the comparatively early age of forty-four. The deceased gentleman was one of the returned Government students from the United States, a coterie of enlightened men whose abilities and loyalty are being greatly appreciated and respected by the Chinese Government, and who, as a consequence, are making their influence felt wherever their lot has placed them. A man of sterling honesty and genial qualities, the late Mr. Tong Kid-son was much beloved by all who had ever come into contact with him, whether in business or socially, and especially was he popular with our Cantonese fellow residents in these settlements, who actually form a good third of the native population here. Mr. Tong Kid-son at the time of his death held the position of Chief Compradore to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co. here, and in his character of President of the Cantonese Guild on Ningpo Road was a member of the Committee of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce created in 1902 by an Imperial Rescript of the Throne. He was also connected with many charitable concerns and took great interest, naturally, in educational matters, having established the School of Western Learning attached to the Cantonese Guild on Ningpo Road. He was one of the Chinese Committee with relation to the Chinese Public School which the Municipal Council intends to establish soon. The deceased gentleman will be greatly missed by a large circle of friends and a goodly portion of our native fellow residents while his death will be a decided loss to the cause of education here and to the Settlements generally. The vacancy made by his death in the Presidency of the Cantonese Guild will probably be filled by Mr. Chu Yu-chee of the China Merchants' S. N. Co.

GERMAN OPINION REGARDING
RUSSIA'S PLAINT.

The following Berlin telegram, dated Feb 25th, has been received at the Foreign Office, Tokyo:—

"In commenting on the late circular of the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, the *Lokal Anzeiger* remarks that Japan had, in a formal sense, undoubtedly no right to land troops or to exercise her sovereignty within the territory of a country which was recognised as an independent State, and which declared its neutrality *vis-à-vis* the Russo-Japanese war; but practically the question is wholly different, because Korea, with her weak and insufficient military force, was not able to maintain neutrality. Therefore the Russians could freely enter Korea if the Japanese had not come there before them. It is, therefore, natural from the geographical position of the seat of war that Korean territory should be utilised as a basis of Japanese military operations. The recognition by the Powers of the independence of Korea under these treaties does not necessarily imply that they have guaranteed her inviolability in case of war, as, for instance, with regard to the case of Belgium. On point is, however, worthy of notice in the Russian circular, that neither Korea's neutrality nor the validity of ordinances emanating from the Korean Government is any longer acknowledged by the Russian Government."

The following comment appeared in the *Berlin Bourse Courier*:—

"While the two belligerents are preparing for a serious combat on the battle-field, the interval is employed by them in waging a collateral diplomatic war. Japan inspired articles giving her case concerning the termination of negotiations and the rupture of diplomatic relations, while Russia brings severe accusations against Japan of violating international law. In regard to the Russian circular, from an important point of view, it can only be said that no complaint can be made against the Japanese

Government from the moment when they broke off diplomatic relations with Russia. The question, however, still remains unsolved: what were the reasons which induced Japan to break off diplomatic relations before the receipt of Russia's reply in Tokyo, which was only a matter of 24 hours' difference in waiting, and would not have caused any important change in the situation. At all events, it is useless now to pronounce any opinion as to which of the two parties was in the right or in the wrong; and according to the rules of war, the cannon of one will now decide."

HONGKONG.

The only cases of communicable disease reported in the Colony last week were 3 of enteric fever (2 European, one of which was imported, and 1 Chinese) and 2 of small-pox (Chinese). The small-pox cases were both fatal.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending 6th March, were 231 non-Chinese and 97 Chinese to the former and 65 non-Chinese and 3,319 Chinese to the latter institution.

The Police Force is again to be congratulated upon the absence of serious crime in this Colony for the past two weeks, the magistrates having before them only very minor offences for trial in the mornings, with practically none during the afternoons.

H. M. river gun-boat *Sandpiper* arrived from the West River on the 8th inst. The German cruiser *Fürst Bismarck*, Capt. Prowe, arrived from Tsintau the same morning, having left that port on the 2nd inst. H. M. S. *Talbot* arrived from Cienfuegos and H. M. S. *Ocean* from Mirs Bay, also on the 8th inst.

On the 7th inst. in the Hongkong Hotel a Yorkshire dinner was held, Mr. W. Danby being in the chair. Sixteen Yorkshiremen were present, out of the 21 odd known to be residing in this neighbourhood. Speeches and songs combined to make the evening pass very pleasantly.

Sergeant Thornhill, R.E., was on the 9th inst. at St. John's Cathedral, married to Miss Austin, of Hongkong. Some 20 non-commissioned officers, in full-dress, white gloves, swords, etc., were present, besides a number of ladies, and a few civilians. Mr. Horley led the bride to the altar; Miss Rhoda Varcoe was bridesmaid; Staff-Sergt. G. H. Taylor, R.F., best man. After the marriage ceremony, which was performed by the Rev. F. T. Johnson, the united couple passed down the aisle under crossed swords, making an exit from the Cathedral door amid showers of rice; while the bells burst forth in a merry peal from the tower. The party then proceeded to the reception, held in the rooms above the Soldiers' Club in Queen's Road. Included in the presents were a silver tea-service, presented by the Soldiers' Club; a silver table-centre, presented by the junior non-commissioned officers of the Royal Engineers; silver napkin-rings, screens, table sets, candel-stand, punch-bowls, and many other useful articles.

At the Roman Catholic Cathedral, Hongkong, at 4.30 p.m. on Sunday the 6th inst. the new set of five bells recently acquired for the Cathedral were placed in the new campanile, now nearing completion, and blessed by Bishop Piazzoli assisted by the clergy. The ceremony was both interesting and imposing, and was well attended. The peal consists of five bells manufactured by George Pruneri of Milan. The largest bell is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and weighs 1,000 kilos or 2,200 lbs. Its surface is richly embellished with small panels containing figures of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Apostles wrought in silver, and the Latin inscription, "We trust in thee" surmounts the whole. The other bells are dedicated to Saints Joseph, Francis, Alexander, and Anthony, and weigh 660, 480, 370, and 260 kilos or 145, 106, 814, and 572 lbs. respectively. These are similarly decorated with panels and figures of saints and other symbolic enrichments, and have the following inscriptions written upon them in Latin:—"Comfort us in our last hour"; "The Voice of God is all powerful and grand"; "If God is with us, who can stand against us"; "Day and night I sing the praise of God."

COMMERCIAL.

SUGAR.

Hongkong 11th March.—There is no change in the prices as when last reported.

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.45 to \$9.50	peas.
Do. " 2, White.....	7.55 to 7.60	"
Do. " 1, Brown.....	5.90 to 5.95	"
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.75 to 5.80	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.35 to 8.40	"
Do. " 2, White.....	7.40 to 7.45	"
Do. " 1, Brown.....	5.80 to 5.85	"
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.65 to 5.70	"
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	12.80 to 12.85	"
Shekloong ".....	11.05 to 11.10	"

RICE.

HONGKONG 11th March.—The prices are the same as when last reported.

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$3.15 to \$3.20
" Round, good quality.....	3.70 to 3.75
" Long.....	3.90 to 3.95
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2.....	3.65 to 3.70
" Garden, " No. 1.....	3.80 to 3.85
" White,.....	4.40 to 4.45
" Fine Cargo.....	4.60 to 4.65

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 10th March.

The movements in our various Opium markets have been as follows:—

Malwa. Patna. Benares. Persian.				
Stocks as per circular of				
25th ultimo, 1904.....	2,201	1,653	780	1,004
Feb. 27th Imports per <i>Coromandel</i> 362	201	25	191	
" 29th " " <i>Glenogien</i> —	85	—	—	—
Mar. 1st " " <i>Laisang</i> —	175	125	—	—
" 7th " " <i>Armand Behic</i> —	400	100	—	—
" 8th " " <i>A. Apear</i> —	147	55	—	—
	2,503	2,640	1,004	2,095
Less Exports to Shanghai.....	321	270	238	—
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight.....	123	534	169	151
Estimated Stocks this day ..	2,119	1,836	687	1,944

Bengal.—The market is steady at \$1,262½ for Patna and \$1,247½ for Benares.

Malwa.—A very small business only has been transacted. Quotations are as follows:—

New.....	\$900/920
2-3 years old.....	\$940/960
4-5 ".....	\$1,040/1060
Oldest.....	\$1,080/1,100

Persian.—A small business is passing. Prices are somewhat easier.

10th March.—

Quotations are:—Allowance net. to 1 catty	
Malwa New.....	\$900 to \$920 per picul.
Malwa Old.....	\$940 to \$960 do.
Malwa Older.....	\$1,040 to \$1,060 do.
Malwa V. Old.....	\$1,080 to \$1,100 do.
Persian fine quality.....	\$890 to — do.
Persian extra fine.....	\$900 to — do.
Patna New.....	\$1,262½ to — per chest.
Patna Old.....	— to — do.
Benares New.....	\$1,247½ to — do.
Benares Old.....	— to — do.

COTTON.

HONGKONG 11th March.—Desultory sales at last quotations. Stock about 1,500 bales.

Bombay.....	26.00 to 28.00	picul
Bengal (New), Rangoon }.....	27.00 to 30.00	"
and Dacca.....		"
Shanghai and Japanese.....	30.00 to 31.00	"
Tungchow and Ningpo.....	30.00 to 31.00	"

Sale:—20 bales.

YARN.

Mr. Eduljee in his report, dated Hongkong March 11th, states:—A little better enquiry existed towards the close of last fortnight, and buyers have, in several instances, advanced 50 cents to a dollar on their offers, which had previously been refused. For the moment, however, dealers have satisfied their requirements and are not buying; but the market may be said to close firmer all round with an improved prospect. Reports from the country are very satisfactory, the yearly settlements of accounts having passed off without difficulty and proportionate confidence is apparent. Supplies during the interval have kept pace with the off-takes, and our stock shows little or no change from last estimate.

Local Manufacture:—Continues quiet.

Japanese Yarn:—Sales to arrive in six to eight weeks of about 500 bales Settsu No. 20s (Red Peacock), at \$136 are reported. Closestrong. Raw Cotton:—Rates are prohibitive, but it is to be hoped that the recent slump in the American

market is the final breakdown of the "bull" element, and will place trade in a healthier condition. No business has been done either in Indian or Chinese descriptions. Estimated unsold stock about 2,000 Indian and 200 Chinese. Quotations are \$27 to \$30 Indian, \$29 to \$31 Chinese.

Exchange, in sympathy with silver, after some fluctuations closes to-day on Bombay T/T at Rs. 137½ and at Rs. 137½ for Post. On Shanghai 71 and on Yokohama 91½.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinning is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 26th ultimo, viz.—

Indian.—With the prospect of an uninterrupted trade, native dealers were very eager to operate and so soon as the holidays were over, purchased 8,000 bales paying one Tael higher for Nos. 10s and 12s and Tael one and a half for No. 2's. No. 16s. remaining unchanged. Estimated unsold stock about 40,000 bales, market closing firm.

Japanese.—In the absence of any brisk enquiry prices have receded half to one Tael. No. 16s. selling at Tls. 85½ to 88½ and No. 20s at Tls. 91½ to 95½, total business not exceeding 1,000 bales. Close weak.

Local.—Nothing doing.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co. in their Piece Goods Trade Report, dated 3rd March, State:—Our market during the interval has been absolutely lifeless, the majority of the dealers, apparently, not having resumed business as yet, even if they have returned from their holidays. The abnormally early departure of the Tientsin steamers has been of little avail, most of them not being able to get into the river, and anyhow the market was evidently not prepared to receive the cargo, no information concerning sales having as yet come to hand. There is a great feeling of uncertainty prevailing at present as to the future, not altogether surprising considering the very serious political upheaval that has taken place, and the return of confidence is delayed chiefly by the stringency in the money market and the curtailment of credit. From the few small transactions that have gone through it appears that the course followed for some time to come will be, as mentioned last week, merely a hand to mouth business, the dealers being scared to buy a bale beyond their actual orders in hand, and this has been borne out during the week by men who formerly would not think of buying less than fifty or a hundred bales putting little lots of 3 and 5 bales into the book. We learn that yesterday there was some enquiry from the Tientsin men as to the available stocks here, and about the prices wanted; but so far it has only led to a few low offers being made to second hand holders of American goods without inducing them to part. It is feared, however, that they are not very strongly held in some quarters and sales may be induced that will break the market. Clearances for the river markets are fairly well kept up in certain classes of Manchester makes, though this is not the experience of all holders. From what we can gather the dealers are expecting a better enquiry in two or three weeks time; but that remains to be seen, it cannot be much worse. There is no particular change in the political situation, the most important feature being the very sagacious and business like Treaty that Japan has arranged with Corea, practically giving her free access and control of the Hermit Kingdom. The only question that is causing anxiety now is the ability of keeping China neutral; if this is done there is no reason why trade should be interrupted to any serious extent, except of course with Newchwang. There may be a few exports from there, but as the Port is now absolutely in the hands of the Russians there will be no import trade; so the prospect there was of stocks here being insufficient to meet requirements by the end of June is not likely to be fulfilled. The latest news from Manchester advises a strong market in sympathy with Cotton, which has risen to 8.10d for mid American and 9½d for Egyptian. Prices are too high for this market, fully 10%. The monthly export figures are not yet in. Business with the States is quite hopeless, and the looms for coarse cloths are being adapted for makes for home consumption, or else shut down. Shipments to China up to the 18th January amounted to 1,293 packages. Piece Goods.—The Auctions have practically held sway this week, for the business privately has been conspicuous by its absence. There is a fair demand for the River markets, and latterly, some enquiry for Chefoo and Tsingtau has been met with, but entirely for English goods. The public sales have no doubt benefited by this, for business proposals to private holders have been few and far between. What has been done was chiefly in common 8.4-lb. Shirtings and White Shirtings. Of the former we hear of the sale of 3,000 pieces

Blue Man at Tls. 2.42½, and of the latter 1,250 pieces each of 64 Reed Bat and Pouch at Tls. 2.72½. Blue Stag and Blue 2 Stag at Tls. 3.15. This, however, does not comprise the entire business, further particulars being withheld. A sale of 1,750 pieces 7 lb. Shirtings at Tls. 1.85 for Steamboat is mentioned, and a few 12 lb. 36 inch have found buyers, but the total is unimportant. At the auctions, prices were somewhat irregular for Grey goods, but Whites were decidedly firmer. Fast Black Cotton Italians went lower all round. In Fancy Goods a further 50 cases Turkey Reds have been taken, chiefly 3½ and 4 lbs. but prices have not transpired. A few Prints were tried at Auction, but there was a very poor demand for them. Woollens have done better and are really the only goods that are giving any satisfaction at present.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 11th March.	
Beans	\$3.70
Borax	\$174
Camphor (China).....	\$115
" (Formosa).....	\$—
Cassia (First quality).....	\$24
" (Second ").....	\$14
" Oil	\$125 @ 162½
Cloves	\$40
Fennel Seed Oil	\$162 @ 170
Galangal	\$6
Garlic	\$—
Glue	\$26
Grapes	\$17
Ivory	\$200 @ 700
Kississ	\$14
Olibanum	\$26
Rosa Oil	\$185
Saltpetre	\$10.65
Sandal wood	\$28
" Oil	\$400
Senna Leaves.....	\$4
Sugar Candy	\$10
Vermilion	\$85
Wax	\$49½

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 24th February. — The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, best selected (Winter cargo) Tls.	33.00
" seconds	29.00
Buffalo hides, best selected	22.00
Goatskins, untanned (chiefly white colour), ..	59.00
Buffalo Horns (average 3lbs. each)	10.50
White China Grass (Wuchang and/or Paochi)	12.00
White China Grass (Sinshan and/or Chayun)	11.60
Green China Grass (Szechuen)	11.70
Jute	5.00
White Vegetable Tallow (Kinchow) ..	11.10
White Vegetable Tallow (Pingchow and/or Macheng)	11.00
White Vegetable Tallow (Mongyu) ..	9.00
Green Vegetable Tallow (Kiyu)	12.50
Animal Tallow	10.00
Gallnuts (usual shape)	19.00
Do. (Plum) do.	2.00
Tobacco Tin-chow	118.00
Black Bristles	19.00
Feathers (Grey and/or White Duck) ..	3.50
Turmeric	4.20
Sesamum Seed	7.90
Sesamum Seed Oil	7.90
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	8.00
Wood Oil,	8.50
Tea Oil	8.50

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 11th March.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/10½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10 5/8
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10 7/8
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 1/10½	
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	232½
ON GERMANY.—	
Credits 4 months' sight	237
On demand	189½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	44½
Credits, 60 days' sight	45½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	137½
Bank, on demand	137½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	137½
Bank, on demand	137½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71
Private, 30 days' sight	71½

ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	91½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	nominal
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	nominal
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	111½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1½ p.c.p.m.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	1½ p.c.p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	92
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.75
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	56.50
BAR SILVER, per oz.,	26 1/8

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG 11th March, 1904.—With the exception of a large business in Indo Chinas, and a fair one in Sugars we have but little to report. General business continues dull and rates have ruled weak.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai, after small sales at 610 declined to 605 nominal, with no buyers over that rate; with no sellers however the rate must still be considered more or less nominal. The London rate continues unchanged at £59. Nationals are still enquired for at \$34 without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have declined to \$480. China Traders remain unchanged at \$55 after small sales at that rate. Cantons have changed hands at \$175 and remain on offer at that rate. In the Northern Insurance Co's. we have nothing to report.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have found buyers at \$28 ex div. of \$22½ paid on 7th inst., while Chinas are on offer at \$33 ex div. of \$7 paid to-day.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been placed at \$27, sellers ruling the market at time of writing at that rate. Indo-Chinas, after sales at \$84½, quickly rose to \$91, with sales at intermediate rates for cash and at about equivalent rates forward, chiefly for June July and August. The rates were fairly well maintained until yesterday, when a weakness was apparent, and has since become accentuated, the market closing at \$88 cash sellers, and at comparatively lower rates forward. Shell Transports, after sales at 18.6 and 18.9 close firmer, with buyers at 19. Old Star Ferries are enquired for at \$30. Douglas's remain unchanged and without business. China and Manilas have been placed at \$20 and close with sellers at that rate. This Company's report which was published to-day shows a balance at the debit of working account of \$63,123.66, against a debit balance of \$14,354.81 brought forward from last year. The profit and loss account is credited with the profit (\$142,748.40) on the book value of the s.s. "Diamante" which has been sold, and also with \$31,223.36 transferred from underworking account.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been the medium of a fair business at \$107, \$108 and \$109 cash, and equivalent rates on time, the market closing firm at the latter rate. Luzons are unchanged at \$10 sellers.

MINING.—A few Raubs have changed hands at \$7½ and \$7¼ and more shares are obtainable at the lower quotation.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have sold at \$205 and more shares are on offer at this rate, Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves are weak at \$92½ ex the final dividend of \$24 per share for 1903 paid to-day. New Amoy Docks continue on offer at \$37½. Farnhams are quoted at Tls. 144.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been placed at \$148 at which rate more shares are procurable. Kowloon Lands, and West Points continue on offer at quotations. Hongkong Hotels have dropped to \$143 sellers. Humphrey's Estates have sold and continue in request at \$10½. Shanghai Lands are steady in the North at Tls. 109.

COTTON MILLS.—No business is reported under this head.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements can be placed at \$24. China Borneos are firm

with buyers at \$83. Watsons have sold at \$144. Ices have receded to \$224 sellers. Ropes are procurable at \$150, and Tramways at \$300. China Light and Powers are wanted at \$47.

MEMOS.—China Borneo Co., Ltd. ordinary yearly meeting on the 19th March. China and Manila Steamship Co., Ltd. ordinary yearly meeting on the 19th March. transfer books closed from the 16th to 19th March inclusive. Hongkong Hotel Co., Ltd. ordinary half-yearly meeting on the 19th March. transfer books closed from the 13th to 19th March inclusive. China Sugar Refinery Co., Ltd. and Luzon Sugar Refinery Co., Ltd. ordinary yearly meetings on the 24th March.

Closing quotations are as follows:

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$6 5/8, sales & L'don, £59.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$34, buyers
B. Shares	£8	\$34, buyers
Found. Shares	£1	\$10.
Insurance—		
Union	\$100	\$480, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$55, buyers
North China	£5	Tls. 67.
Yangtze	\$60	\$135, sales
Canton	\$50	\$175, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$280, ex div., buy.
China Fire	\$20	\$83, ex div., sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$27, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$88, sellers
China and Manila	\$50	\$20, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$33.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$30, buyers
	\$5	\$184, sales & sellers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	£1	\$19, buyers
Do. pref. shares	£10	£10, nominal
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$108, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10, sellers
Mining—		
Punjom	\$11	\$1, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	25 cents
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$500.
Raub	18 10d.	\$74, sellers
Docks, Etc.—		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$205, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$92, ex div.
New Amoy Dock	\$64	\$87, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 144.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$148, sales & sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$35, sellers
WestPoint Building	\$50	\$54, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$143, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$10, buyers
	\$24	\$2.50, new issue
Shanghai Land Ins. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 50	Tls. 109.
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 33, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 25, sellers
Laon Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 324.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 170.
Hongkong	\$10	\$15, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$24, sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$84, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$14, sales
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$12, sellers
	\$5	\$7, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$150.
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$47, ex div.
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$224, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$300.
Hk. Steam Water-Boat Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$15, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12.
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12/6	\$5, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$210, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$1, sellers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$880, sellers
Wat'ins. Ld.	\$10	\$7, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$4, buyers
Powell, Ld.	\$10	\$9, sellers
Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and Cleaning Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50.
Canton, Hongkong Ice Cigar Companies—	\$10	\$10, nominal
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$200.
Phippine Tobacco Trust Co., Ld.	\$10	\$10, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. in their Share Report, dated 4th March, state:—We have to report a very steady market in the stocks for the week under review, and at closing report steady rates in Indo-Chinas, S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., and Langkats. Banks.—H. and S. Banks. No business reported. Hongkong quotes sellers at \$612, the London rate being £61. Nationals are wanted at quotations. T/T. to-day on London is 2-7 1/2. Marine Insurance.—North Chinas. Shares newly constructed by the Company have been placed at Tls. 67 1/2 cash. Unions are offering in the South at \$485. Other stocks under this heading have not been dealt in. Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas. Business was done on the 29th at Tls. 58 cash and March delivery, and to Hongkong for March at \$83, and Tls. 58 1/2 April. On 1st instant cash and March delivery shares were placed again at Tls. 58 with sales at 58 1/2 April, and 59 May. On the 2nd March shares were placed at 58 1/2, 59 April, 60 May, and 61/60 June. The market closes steady at the latter rates. Shell Transport & Trading Co. shares have been placed at £1. Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co. ordinary shares could be placed at Tls. 50, and pref. at Tls. 48. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd. The market opened on the 26th with sales for cash at Tls. 135, 136, 137 March and 138 April. On the 27th at Tls. 138, 139 April, and 140 May, June and July. On the 29th cash shares were placed at Tls. 137 and 136 and for March at Tls. 138 and 138 1/2, and for July at 141. On the 1st instant at Tls. 137 cash, 138 March and 141/143 July. On the 2nd at 138 and 138 1/2 cash and 137 1/2 March; 143 July. The market closes steady at these rates. Hongkong and Whampoa Docks. Sales are reported at \$201. Shanghai and Hongkong Wharves. Business is reported at Tls. 215 March, 212 1/2 cash, and again at 215 March. Shares are obtainable at 212 1/2 March. Sugar Cos.—No business reported. Mining.—The only business in stocks under this heading has been in Kaiping at Tls. 6. Weihaiwei Golds are wanted at Tls. 15, sellers at Tls. 18. Lands.—Shanghai have been placed at Tls. 110, and small lots are obtainable at this rate. Hongkong Lands. Offering in the South at \$149. Industrial.—In Cotton stocks no business reported. Shanghai Gas Co. Sellers at Tls. 117 1/2. Shanghai Ices. Small buyers at current rates. Paper and Pulp. Business has been done at Tls. 110 ex. div. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats. The market opened on the 26th ult. with sales at Tls. 307 1/2 March and 320 June. On the 27th cash shares were placed at Tls. 300. Sales at 305 March, 310 April, and 320 June. 20th at 300 cash, 302 1/2 March and 320 June. 1st instant 300 cash, 302 1/2 March, 320 June; 2nd at 300 cash, 305 March and 320 June. At closing business has been done for June at 322 1/2. There are buyers at 302 1/2 March and 300 cash. Stores and Hotels.—Since the Fire no business has been reported in Hall & Holtz shares. Weeks.—Translations are reported in these at \$21, and Central Stores at \$24. Miscellaneous.—The only business reported is in Telephones at Tls. 56. Loan and Debentures.—These are offering at quotations.

FREIGHTS.

Per Conference Steamers. To London and Northern Continental ports:—Tea 52/6 per ton of 40 cubic feet. General cargo 52/6 per ton of 40 cubic feet. Seeds 47/6 per ton of 20 cwt. To Marseilles and Havre:—General 48/- net, per ton of 40 cubic feet. Seeds, 47/6 net, per ton of 20 cwt. To New York (Overland):—Tea 14 0/6 cents per lb. gross. To New York, via Suez, 30/- per ton of 40 cubic feet. To Shanghai:—Tea Taels 1.80 per ton of 13 half-chests. To Shanghai:—General, Taels 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 11th March.—Freights continue about the same as last reported. From Saigon to this, 31 cents offering; to Philippines, 40 cents. Iloilo to Hongkong, 27 1/2 cents; to Yokohama, 4 cents. From Java to this, 37 1/2 cents; to Japan, 44 cent. Rangoon to Philippines, 58 cents. Coal freights are firm. From Moji to this, \$3.10 last; to Singapore, \$3.25; to Saigon and Hongkong, steamers wanted; to Manila, \$4. The following are the steamers:—

Fausang—British steamer, 1,410 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$3.10 per ton.
Tyr—Norwegian steamer, 1,417 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$3.10 per ton.
Hydra—British steamer, 2,625 tons, Moji or Kuchinotzu to Singapore, \$3.25 per ton.
A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Newchwang to Canton, 45 cents per picul.
Dott—Norwegian steamer, 629 tons, Rangoon to one port Philippines, 58 cents per picul (April).
Hugin—Norwegian steamer, 829 tons, Iloilo to Yokohama (28,000 piculs), 45 cents per picul.

Perla—British steamer, 1,287 tons, Iloilo to Yokohama or Kobe, 55 cents per picul.

Pronto—Norwegian steamer, 837 tons, Iloilo to Hongkong, \$7.425 in full.

Sophie Rickmers—German steamer, 2,262 tons, three ports north coast Java to one port Japan, 44 cents per picul (April).

M. S. Dollar—British steamer, 2,674 tons, four ports north coast Java to Hongkong, 30 cents per picul (part cargo).

Imma Duyken—German steamer, 1,109 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 21 cents per picul.

Laertes—British steamer, 1,514 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 21 cents per picul.

Holstein—German steamer, 1,113 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 21 cents per picul.

Progress—German steamer, 799 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

China—German steamer, 1,093 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

Amara—British steamer, 1,566 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 17 cents per picul.

Hopsang—British steamer, 1,359 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.

Karin—Swedish steamer, 668 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 40 cents per picul.

Decima—German steamer, 794 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 40 cents per picul.

Binh Thuan—French steamer, 983 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 40 cents per picul.

Sishan—German steamer, 945 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 40 cents per picul.

Nanyang—German steamer, 1,060 tons, Saigon to 12 ports Philippines, 40 and 44 cents per picul.

Bjorn—Norwegian steamer, 722 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 42 1/2 cents per picul.

Elg—Norwegian steamer, 708 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 44 cents per picul.

Daphne—German steamer, 1,145 tons, monthly, 5 months, \$8,500 per month (recharter).

Babelsberg—German steamer, 1,379 tons, monthly, 5 months, at \$11,000 per month.

Shantung—German steamer, 1,000 tons, monthly, 6 months, at \$8,200 per month.

Loyal—German steamer, 1,184 tons, monthly, 6 months, at \$8,000 per month.

Victoria—Swedish steamer, 989 tons, monthly, 6 months, at \$8,100 per month.

Haldis—Norwegian steamer, 1,065 tons, monthly, 6 months, at \$10,000 per month.

Brunhilde—German steamer, 872 tons, monthly, 6 months, at \$7,000 per month.

Sullberg—German steamer, 782 tons, monthly, 6 months, at \$7,500 per month (recharter).

Hugin—Norwegian steamer, 829 tons, monthly, at \$8,000 per month.

Nigretia—British steamer, 1,530 tons, monthly, 6 months, at \$11,000 per month.

Providence—Norwegian steamer, 693 tons, monthly, 8 months, at \$7,000 per month.

Gaea—Norwegian steamer, 624 tons, monthly, 9 months, at \$5,750 per month.

Thea—German steamer, 934 tons, monthly, 9 months, at \$7,000 per month (recharter).

Elg—Norwegian steamer, 708 tons, monthly, 9 months, at \$5,750 per month.

Ariel—Norwegian steamer, 933 tons, monthly, 12 months, at \$8,000 per month.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

March—

- 4, Brisgavia, German str., from Hamburg.
- 4, Chwnshan, British str., from Saigon.
- 4, M. Rickmers, German str., from Bangkok.
- 4, Stolberz, German str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Algerine, British sloop, from Singapore.
- 5, Amara, British str., from Moji.
- 5, Hertha, German cruiser, from Woosung.
- 5, Kansu, British str., from Manila.
- 5, Korea, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
- 5, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
- 5, Pentakota, British str., from Rangoon.
- 5, Rajaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
- 5, Tsintau, German str., from Bangkok.
- 5, Tyr, Norwegian str., from Swatow.
- 6, Chingtu, British str., from Australia.
- 6, Kwangse, British str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Loksang, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 6, Pakhoi, British str., from Wuhu.
- 6, Phra C. Klao, German str., from Bangkok.
- 6, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 6, Triumph, German str., from Swatow.
- 6, Trocas, British str., from Singapore.
- 7, Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
- 7, Armand Behic, Fr. str., from Marseilles.
- 7, Australian, French str., from Shanghai.
- 7, Centurion, British b'ship, from Mers Bay.
- 7, Ischia, Italian str., from Bombay.

- 7, Tritos, German str., from Swatow.
- 7, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
- 8, Arratoon Apcar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
- 8, Bendleuch, British str., from London.
- 8, Benledi, British str., from Rangoon.
- 8, Eastern, British str., from Kobe.
- 8, Foyle, British str., from Moji.
- 8, Furst Bismarck, German str., from Tsintau.
- 8, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 8, Kwongsang, British str., from Canton.
- 8, Ocean, British battleship, from Mirs Bay.
- 8, Progress, German str., from Saigon.
- 8, Saxonia, German str., from Hamburg.
- 8, S. Nordiske, Dan. cable str., from a cruise.
- 8, Talbot, British cruiser, fr m Mirs Bay.
- 8, Telemachus, British str., from Liverpool.
- 9, Cressy, British cruier, from Mirs Bay.
- 9, Amberton, British str., from Barry.
- 9, Bourbon, French str., from Saigon.
- 9, China, German str., from Saigon.
- 9, Eva, Norwegian str., from Barry.
- 9, Hanyang, British str., from Kobe.
- 9, Kansu, British str., from Canton.
- 9, Kweiyang, British str., from Wuhu.
- 9, Malacca, British str., from London.
- 9, Mercedes, British str., from Wellington.
- 9, Wakasa Maru, Japanese str., from London.
- 10, Apenrade, German str., from Pakhoi.
- 10, Hsiping, British str., from Chingwangtau.

March—DEPARTURES.

- 5, Anamba, Danish str., for Bangkok.
- 5, Bergenhus, British str., for Rangoon.
- 5, Chunsang, British str., for Singapore.
- 5, Den, Portuguese gunboat, for Macao.
- 5, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
- 5, Kansu, British str., for Canton.
- 5, Kungping, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Machaon, British str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Petchaburi, German str., for Swatow.
- 5, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
- 6, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
- 6, Johanne, German str., for Swatow.
- 6, Kohsichang, German str., for Hoihow.
- 6, Konigsberg, German str., for Singapore.
- 6, Laertes, British str., for Saigon.
- 6, Nanyang, German str., for Saigon.
- 6, Ovia, British str., for Moji.
- 6, Pitsan lok, German str., for Bangkok.
- 6, Rasbera, British str., for Kobe.
- 6, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Moji.
- 7, A-cot, British str., for Kobe.
- 7, Babelsberg, German str., for Yokohama.
- 7, Quarta, German str., for Takao.
- 7, Victoria, Swedish str., for Kobe.
- 8, Armand Belic, French str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Australien, French str., for Europe.
- 8, Fraemar, British str., for Kobe.
- 8, Brunhilde, German str., for Samarang.
- 8, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Edendale, British str., for Phanrang.
- 8, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
- 8, Machew, German str., for Bangkok.
- 8, Michael Jebson, German str., for Kobe.
- 8, Thales, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 8, Triumph, German str., for Swatow.
- 9, Benledi, British str., for Japan.
- 9, Brigavia, German str., for Yokohama.
- 9, Chowfa, German str., for Bangkok.
- 9, Emps. of Japan, British str., for Vancouver.
- 9, Fausang, British str., for Moji.
- 9, Fiume, German str., for Chefoo.
- 9, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
- 9, Hanyang, British str., for Kobe.
- 9, Kampot, French str., for Saigon.
- 9, Kwongsang, British str., for Swatow.
- 9, Laiesang, British str., for Calcutta.
- 9, Loksang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 9, Lugano, German str., for Rangoon.
- 9, Pentakota, British str., for Rangoon.
- 9, Tritos, German str., for Anping.
- 9, Whampoa, British str., for Canton.
- 10, Bendleuch, British str., for Yokohama.
- 10, Foyle, British str., for Kutchinotzu.
- 10, Korea, American str., for San Francisco.
- 10, Saxonia, German str., for Yokohama.
- 10, Store Nordiske, Dan. str., for Kiautschou.
- 10, Telemachus, British str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Tremont, Amr. str., for Manila.
- 10, Wongkoi, German str., for Bangkok.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Korea*, from San Francisco, for Hongkong, Mrs. E. Toye-Shortledge, Mrs. H. D. Reinken, Mrs. E. B. Kimball, Mrs. E. S. Benson, Mrs. Gray-Donald, Mrs. Geo. E. Rockwood, Mrs. B. F. Dillingham, Mrs. J. Davis,

Mrs. H. C. Butcher, Mrs. C. Leland Harrison, Mrs. Chas. Morgan and Maid, Mrs. W. T. Wenyeu, Mrs. E. F. de Beixodon, Mrs. Frederic Smyth, Mrs. R. W. Tirrill, Mrs. Geo. T. Hanley, Mrs. L. Goldman, Mrs. S. G. Hayman, Mrs. T. A. Sheman and Infant, Mrs. D. R. Williams, Mrs. G. R. Harvey, Mrs. H. K. Lore and Mrs. M. A. Clark; Misses Hammon, G. B. Jackson, Laura P. Butcher, Eleanor P. Butcher, de Beixodon and Maid, M. B. Stuart, Spring, and Murray; Dr. C. E. Wall, Dr. L. H. Fales, Dr. P. A. Fox, Capt. Morrisen N.O.A. Capt. Kuhn N.O. Engs., Master C. de Beixodon, Master de Beixodon, Master Stanley Harvey, Messrs. G. F. Foye, H. D. Reinken, J. N. Sutton, A. W. Perry, E. B. Kimball, J. W. Tayler, C. W. Yale, W. R. Moffith, E. S. Benson, A. J. Croll, C. P. F. Kellogg, Nat. Frankel, J. O. Loveridge, C. H. Dure, J. F. Wilkinson, Geo. E. Rockwood, F. E. Clark, R. F. Dillingham, Claude H. Smith, F. H. Jermyn, A. S. Murray-Staroth, H. C. Butcher, C. Leland Harrison, Frank J. Paterson and Valet, M. B. Koon, L. S. Gillite, J. B. Gillilan Jn., J. S. Pillsbury, Chas. Morgan, R. E. Maynard, W. T. Wenyeu, E. A. Kelley, E. F. de Beixodon, R. W. Tirrill, Geo. T. Hanley, I. Goldman, S. G. Hayman, F. A. Sheman, G. R. Harvey, G. R. Putnam, H. K. Lore, S. P. Mobley, E. R. Sizer, Jr., G. R. Adams, M. S. Chase, G. L. Solienac, A. J. Francis, W. A. Lamert, C. G. Cook, Edmund Block, M. Koon, A. E. Eoche, C. L. Simpson, M. A. Clark and T. Eolanged.

Per *Armand Belic*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Comte Pierre Heusel and Mr. Gregorio Pimentel; from Colombo, Mrs. Yietelman; from Singapore, Messrs. Ed. De Storer, Ch. Schultz, H. C. Rice, Bub, Josef Hamernik, and D. Romano; from Saigon, Mr. and Mrs. Prouchandy and two children, Messrs. Schmid and Laubie; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Ch. Cailliez, Misses Juvet and Zurn, Messrs. Caissial, Zurn, Vitali, and Potet; from Port Said, Mr. Christo Dimitri; from Aden, Messrs. Vasili and Yami; from Calcutta, Mrs. Ida Kinsbruner; from Colombo, Mrs. Bertin, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Tchilewitch, Mr. and Mrs. Walestain, Vicomte d'Ollone, Messrs. Abraham Carb and Nai; from Singapore, Messrs. A. Ahlers, W. Williams, P. Browne, Stephan, Paolo, and Couplet; from Saigon, Messrs. Danion, Kerisia, Allain, Le Fur, Le Roux, and Kerviste; for Kobe, from Singapore, Mrs. Ste. Anatolie Lannoy, Mrs. St. Guillaume Michet, Messrs. Okeda, Imade, and Kitai; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Kann, Messrs. F. Wallach, W. M. Mottley, and General Hamilton.

Per *Australien*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Wiese, Mrs. Kalver, Mr. and Mrs. Hicks and child, Lieut. Harvey, R.A.M.C., Capt. R. Koehler, Col. Dr. Abdallah Yousouf, Messrs. J. Kuhn, A. Lenith, R. Tietz, R. Vagott, H. Blocker, G. Loch, E. R. Aldrich, H. A. Tolmer, R. Porter, Mahomedley, Kondo, Mandl, Chivang, Vaughan, Rudolf Fischer, Kammeur, A. H. Mancell, E. Hjonsberg, J. J. Connell, F. S. Cairns, Chemin Dupontes, J. V. Giroud, Domany, and D. Sache; for Saigon, Mrs. Schmidt, Mrs. Alexandrova, Messrs. E. Lamy, Elias Winiger, and J. Skiliris; for Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Lawensohn, Mr. and Mrs. Urniag, and Mr. Rosa Marschale; for Port Said, Mr. Durando; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Pilatte, Mrs. Rybakoff, sister and child, Mr. and Mrs. Argand, Mrs. Mordneovitch and child, Mrs. Matonsevitch and child, Mr. and Mrs. Ch. Doyere and child, Mrs. Gonilansen, Mrs. MacIntosh and child, Dr. and Mrs. W. F. Walker and daughter, Mrs. R. Drucher, Miss Collier, Messrs. R. Jamin, E. Baron, Barre, Cabriforce, Guilleateau, Pelletier, Gromer, Gesland, Homberg, L. Richy, H. Wegelin, B. Bardy, Schmidt, Baratz, J. Roques, McEllegoth, Janvert, and Tessiot.

DEPARTED.

Per *Preussen*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gove, Mr. and Mrs. T. Lidell, Mr. and Mrs. Landale, Mr. and Mrs. White, Mrs. J. S. Bedes, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Scull, Mr. and Mrs. T. Selma, Mrs. Costa, Misses Barley, Silva, and Souza, Messrs. E. Strythe, C. Mumm, Fearson, C. C. dos Remedios, J. M. d'Almeida, C. T. Ashly, W. G. Pirie, Ghise, H. E. Keylock, R. N. Bergmann, Gredde, M. Hass, C. Craig, Well, Arjum, O. Batt, and

M. E. dos Remedios; for Nagasaki, Mr. A. Rome, for Kobe, Mr. Barnes; for Yokohama, Messrs. M. Franco, J. Regis, and A. Adal.

Per *Australien*, for Saigon, Messrs. Robert Boerling, Alexandre Shilling, Alexandre Lobodi, Dmitry Euler, Nicolas Leykoff, J. Salelatoff, and Lenith; for Singapore, Messrs. W. Eller, Emile de Choulitz, Joannes Pritzkow, Otto Koch, T. Parsons, and W. Williams; for Batavia, Dr. O. E. Wall; for Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Tirrell, Mr. and Mrs. Keinkin, Messrs. J. O. Loveridge, W. Allen, and J. T. Wilkinson; for Bombay, Mr. H. A. W. Brent; for Aden, Mr. Miguel Housrato Xavier Pereira; for Marseilles, Mrs. and Miss Willy, Commandant de Gaye, Mrs. and Miss de Gaye, Mrs. H. Frederick Newhard, Colonel H. C. Wyly, Rev. Father M. Holhan, Messrs. L. Le Sauvage, J. Teyssot, and C. Fritzsche.

Per *Armand Belic*, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Gause and child, Mr. and Mrs. Valance, Mr. and Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Musket, Misses Walter, Violet Frampton, Alice Wade, Eva Carlotta, Connie Desmond, Eva Bonheur, Amy Bailey, and Blanche Garbette, Messrs. H. B. Roe, Duncan Munro, Frank Coochrane, Albert Rees, Ritter Riley, Percy Haydn, W. H. Williams, Frank Pengelley, Ernest Jones, W. T. Davis, James Madeson, Joao A. de Silva, G. Lovarides, A. Bodozis, and Sverre Schjott, Rev. Father Beaublat, and Mrs. Amale Waingarton; for Kobe, Mr. Donkin; for Yokohama, Messrs. Alfredo Bustamante, H. M. Daveru, and H. Murray.

Per *Empress of Japan*, for Vancouver, &c., Rev. Mrs. and Miss Thorburn and two children, Mr. and Mrs. R. Laidlaw, Mrs. and Miss McCoy, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Gray, Master Gray, Mrs. M. Stephenson, Mrs. E. Moore, Mrs. Camera, Mrs. Maud Colson and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Garcia, Misses Backstock, O'Hagan, Maxey, Hooper, Francis, Burton, and Johnston, Surgeon E. R. Grazebrook, R.N., Bishop J. M. Thorburn, Capt. Emiles, Messrs. John Smith, A. Absell, H. G. Maud, A. R. Ireland, R.N., A. E. Roe, R.N., J. B. Shettle, R.N., C. J. Carter, U.S.N., A. E. Eche, T. H. Allen, J. H. Keet, C. S. Schultz, H. T. Rice, J. Dow, H. Broa, H. Pinckney, Lenie Jung, T. K. Morgan, and O'Hara.

Per *Korea*, for Shanghai, Mrs. Hutchison, Mr. and Mrs. O. Clark, Mrs. Y. Stirling, Miss M. Stirling, Mrs. R. Williams, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Wu Ting Fang, Messrs. C. L. Simpson, W. A. Lamont, A. J. Francis, M. B. Koon, J. S. Pillsbury, F. E. Clark, L. S. Gillette, and J. B. Gillilan; for Nagasaki, Mr. and Mrs. L. Goldman, Mr. and Mrs. Mumeya, Messrs. Geo. R. Harvey and M. Higasa; for Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Hawley, Miss M. B. Stuart, Mr. and Mrs. Nishikado, Capt. Schumacher, and Mr. C. H. Deere; for Yokohama, Capt. and Mrs. E. Bent, Capt. Morrison and Kuhn, Messrs. F. H. Jermyn, Kanag, S. Kurosawa, K. Yamada, S. Kinnow, J. Kuhn, and C. H. Smith; for Honolulu, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Dillingham; for San Francisco, &c., Sir Frederick and Lady Treves, Hon. and Mrs. J. R. Williams, Rev. and Mrs. C. E. Burdette, Major and Mrs. Herapath, Mr. and Mrs. Reichelt, Mrs. Radcliffe, Mrs. F. N. Merrill, Mr. and Mrs. H. Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Butcher, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Harrison, Mrs. Geo. R. Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Hayman, Mrs. N. L. Keith, Mrs. M. M. Rudd, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Sherman, Mr. and Mrs. F. de Beixodons, Messrs. F. and P. Beixodons, Mrs. J. M. Johnston, Mrs. Cockrell, Mrs. Melvin, Mr. and Mrs. S. Warburton, Mr. and Mrs. S. Bohmans, Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Love, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Austin, Mr. and Mrs. von Gonzenbach, Dr. S. J. Gomes, Misses C. B. Spring and E. Murr y, Messrs. H. Goldschmidt, C. De Angeli, W. R. Tucker, W. Moller, A. H. Hollingsworth, R. C. Robbins, J. G. Kniesche, G. Kemna, R. Faber, C. Tack, A. W. Aspen, A. J. Croll, A. W. Perry, C. P. F. Kellogg, C. W. Yale, M. Frankel, L. H. Wsetdhal, E. R. Sizer, G. R. Putnam, F. T. Patterson, L. Rome, O. Spandon, I. Erlanger, Stanley Harvey, Edmund Block, E. Greenacre, A. N. Scott, J. Gustorf, E. Neumuller, E. A. Ahlers, G. E. Finley, and Carl P. uli, Misses F. Meyers and J. Harris.

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